

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 23, 2015

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu  
3 Kaplan St. Hakiryia  
Jerusalem  
91950  
Israel

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu:

America's support for Israel has historically and wisely been bipartisan, an approach that has well served the strong ties between our two nations. Yet, the invitation you received from House Speaker Boehner to address a Joint Session of Congress was sent without consultation with the White House or the Democratic leadership in the House or Senate. This unprecedented move threatens to undermine the important bipartisan approach toward Israel – which as long-standing supporters of Israel troubles us deeply. It sacrifices deep and well-established cooperation on Israel for short-term partisan points – something that should never be done with Israeli security and which we fear could have lasting repercussions.

As such, to maintain Israel's dialogue with both political parties in Congress, we invite you to a closed-door meeting with Democratic Senators during your upcoming visit to Washington. We believe such a venue would be a wholly appropriate opportunity to discuss the range of issues that face our two countries.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator