

KENNY MARCHANT
24TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4324

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October 30, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2291 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear President Obama and Secretary Kerry:

I am deeply disturbed by the recently reported comments of a senior administration official towards our close ally and partner, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. As was reported by Jeffrey Goldberg in *The Atlantic* on October 28, 2014, “‘The thing about Bibi is, he’s a chickens***,’ this official said, referring to the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, by his nickname.”

The United States and Israel share a bond of friendship and mutual support that must not be broken. Statements such as this have no place in our relationship with Israel and cannot be tolerated. I call for the revelation of who was the senior administration official that authored this comment and ask for his or her immediate dismissal. Moreover, an apology should be made by this individual and the administration for the damage that has been caused in our relationship with our closest ally in the Middle East. Anything short of these immediate actions could further damage our relationship with Israel. Inaction will only send the message that this disgraceful statement is condoned and shared by the administration.

Thank you for your immediate attention to these requests.

Sincerely,



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress