## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to urge you in the strongest terms to accept Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request to meet with you during his visit to the United States this month. We are astounded by your refusal to grant this request to one of our closest allies at such a critical time for that region. The rejection of this request represents disturbing treatment of a vital partner and illustrates a lack of regard for the indispensable relationship between the United States and Israel and the current dynamics in the region which are essential to our national security.

The United States and Israel have nurtured a unique and vital relationship since their independence on May 14, 1948. The United States must engage very closely with Israel at every level – now more than ever. Your unwillingness or "lack of time in your schedule" to provide critical national leadership and to maintain vital high level communication channels between our countries in the face of potential military engagement is extraordinarily irresponsible and sends the wrong signal to the international community and our closest ally. Their geographical location within the Middle East makes them a key player to the United States and regional stability. In this time of uncertainty and advancing nuclearization of Iran, Israel deserves a strong and loyal ally.

Whether the excuse is a scheduling conflict or lack of communication, there is no excuse for ignoring a world leader. We urge you to immediately accept the request to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Sincerely,

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