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January 4, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to you today with great concern regarding the recent media reports that the National Security Agency (NSA), in the course of monitoring Israeli government officials, procured private conversations between those officials and members of the United States Congress. These reports have specifically discussed that the White House was provided communications between Israeli officials and members of Congress discussing the Iran nuclear deal. Once provided with this information, the reports state that the White House took no affirmative steps to ensure that political conversations were not transmitted to them.

These reports raise many questions concerning the processes that NSA employees follow in determining how and whether to transmit communications that involve members of Congress, and policies regarding the sharing of this information with the Executive Branch and foreign governments.

I am concerned that the vague guidelines and policies used by the NSA for intelligence collection and sharing, in conjunction with elusive direction from the Administration, have led to intelligence being collected on sitting members of Congress for political purposes, specifically relating to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that was being negotiated at the time this information was collected.

For this reason, I respectfully request your prompt response to the following concerns:

1. What is the White House policy regarding intelligence collection on current members of Congress?
2. Did the White House receive any communications between Israeli officials and members of Congress regarding the nuclear negotiations and agreement with Iran?
3. How was this information used by the Administration in the course of the JCPOA negotiations?

4. Was any of the information collected by the NSA regarding communications between Israeli officials and members of Congress shared with other members of the P5+1?
5. Was any of the information collected by the NSA regarding communications between Israeli officials and members of Congress used by White House officials during the political debate in the United States about the Iran deal?

I greatly appreciate your prompt response to these questions.

Sincerely,



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
Admiral Michael S. Rogers, Director of the National Security Agency