



B' N A I B' R I T H I N T E R N A T I O N A L

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International's more than 100,000 members and supporters, we write to express our concern over your endorsement of Representative Keith Ellison to chair the Democratic National Committee. We feel that Congressman Ellison's votes and statements on Israel represent a point of view that is too extreme to make him an effective leader of a party with a storied pro-Israel tradition.

Congressman Ellison was one of just eight members of the House of Representatives to vote against funding for Iron Dome, a missile shield that has proved crucial in protecting the lives of Israeli civilians against rocket attacks. He voted "present" on a resolution affirming Israel's right to defend itself from such terrorist strikes. And he authored a House letter to President Obama urging him to pressure Israel to open the Gaza border in the face of Hamas' ongoing campaign to stock weapons and build terrorist tunnels.

B'nai B'rith believes these troubling positions to be far beyond the mainstream. We fear that elevating someone who holds these views to the leadership of the DNC would signal a weakening of the party's traditional support for the U.S.-Israel relationship, in contravention of longstanding Democratic values.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Gary P. Saltzman
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President

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