## United States Senate

## **WASHINGTON, DC 20510**

March 4, 2015

Senator Mitch McConnell Majority Leader 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

As supporters of S. 615, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, we object to you bypassing the committee process by bringing this bipartisan legislation—under a new bill number—directly to the floor for debate and a vote outside of the regular order of the Senate.

On a day defined by serious discourse about Iran's illicit nuclear weapons program, at a moment when legislators are contemplating the most serious national security issue of our time, we are disappointed that you have proceeded outside of regular order which suggests that the goal of this maneuver is to score partisan political points, rather than pursue a substantive strategy to counter Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The deadline for a political framework agreement with Iran is March 24 and a final agreement is not expected to be reached until the end of June. There is no immediate or urgent need to circumvent the Committee process and we are disappointed that you've pursued this partisan course of action.

We remain committed to working on this bill in a bipartisan manner. As such, and as a result of your actions, we will only vote for this bill after it has gone through the regular mark-up process in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and after the March 24<sup>th</sup> deadline for the political framework agreement.

Sincerely,

Robert Menendez

United States Senator

Joe Donnelly

United States Senator

Tim Kaine

United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp

United States Senator

Bill Nelson

4

United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer

United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr. United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

United States Senator