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Grace Meng
Congress of the United States
Sixth District, New York
March 7, 2016

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The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I write to thank you for the State Department's dramatic decrease in visa refusal rates when processing Israeli national visas.

I first wrote to you regarding this issue on March 14, 2014, after the published fiscal year 2013 data revealed an 8.6 percent refusal rate for Israeli nationals. I was pleasantly surprised when reviewing the fiscal year 2015 data to find that the most recent refusal rate is 3.85 percent – less than half the amount when we first corresponded. I thank you for this improvement, and urge you to continue to ensure that the Department remains vigilant in its effort to adequately assess whether or not to refuse entry to visa applicants.

If I may ever be of service to you in my role on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, anytime. Your staff may contact [REDACTED] of my staff at [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-2601. I look forward to continuing to work together with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress

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