



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 19, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

As a Senior Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I write to you regarding reports of official post-election State Department therapy and listening sessions.¹ I am concerned that the Department is catering to federal employees who are personally devastated by the normal functioning of American democracy through the provision of government-funded mental health counseling because Kamala Harris was not elected President of the United States.

Instead, on November 5, the American people resoundingly elected Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States – a decisive repudiation of four years of failed Biden-Harris foreign policy. It is disturbing that ostensibly nonpartisan government officials would suffer a personal meltdown over the results of a free and fair election, something the United States champions around the world. It is unacceptable that the Department accommodates this behavior and subsidizes it with taxpayer dollars.

Furthermore, the mere fact that the Department is hosting these sessions raises significant questions about the willingness of its personnel to implement the lawful policy priorities that the American people elected President Trump to pursue and implement. The Trump Administration has a mandate for wholesale change in the foreign policy arena, and if foreign service officers cannot follow through on the American people's preferences, they should resign and seek a political appointment in the next Democrat administration.

The mental health of our foreign service personnel is important, but The Department has no obligation to indulge and promote the leftist political predilections of its employees and soothe

¹ Adam Kredo, “‘Managing Stress During Change’: Biden-Harris State Department Holds Therapy Session After Trump Win,” *Washington Free Beacon*, November 11, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/biden-harris-administration/managing-stress-during-change-biden-harris-state-department-holds-therapy-session-after-trump-win/>

their frayed nerves because of the good-faith votes of – and at the personal expense of – the American taxpayers.

With this in mind, I request a briefing with the appropriate officials by no later than Friday, November 22 to answer the following questions:

1. How many sessions have been conducted and how many more are planned?
2. What materials were used during the session and what was the agenda?
3. How much did these sessions cost the Department?
4. Are these sessions being conducted overseas?
5. Has the Department held similar sessions in the past, and if so, what events prompted them?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Issa', written in a cursive style.

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress