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GUTIERREZ STATEMENT REGARDING KIRK'S COMMENTS

CHICAGO -- *U.S. Representative Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.) released the following statement today on Rep. Mark Kirk's (R-Ill.) recent comments:*

"Congressman Kirk is a friend and an important member of the Illinois delegation. However, his words, as reported by local news outlets, were inappropriate and poorly chosen. Discriminating against any group based solely on race, creed or country of origin is never okay. It is not only bad public policy, but it goes against the very foundation of our nation. While I believe that protecting our nation's security must be our top priority, and I know Congressman Kirk agrees, we must do it in a way that also protects our rights and our civil liberties."

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