

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

January 3, 2018

The Honorable Christopher C. Krebs
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary
National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Krebs:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the hearing that was held on November 29, 2017, titled "Cybersecurity of Voting Machines."

In order to ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written response to the Committee on or before January 19, 2018, including each question in full as well as the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by e-mail to Sharon Casey, Deputy Chief Clerk, at Sharon.Casey@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Troy Stock at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Will Hurd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Information Technology



Gary J. Palmer
Chairman
Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Robin L. Kelly, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Information Technology

The Honorable Val Butler Demings, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure

**Question for Christopher Krebs
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary
National Protection & Programs Directorate
Department of Homeland Security**

**Ranking Members Robin Kelly and Val Demings
Subcommittee on Information Technology and Intergovernmental Affairs
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Hearing on “Cybersecurity of Voting Machines”**

November 29, 2017

At the hearing, Rep. Kelly introduced into the record a letter she sent on October 20, 2017, with Ranking Member Elijah Cummings. The letter requested “copies of the notifications” the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided to 21 states reportedly targeted by Russian hacking efforts. The letter also requested copies of all documents “related to the Russian government-backed attempts to hack state election systems.” Attached is a copy of the letter that Rep. Kelly introduced into the record.

According to press reports, the following states received notifications from DHS that they were identified as targets: Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, Illinois, Alaska, Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, North Dakota, Minnesota Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, Alabama, Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, and Delaware.¹

On the day before the hearing, DHS produced only an email with a short script that DHS employees apparently read over the phone to state election officials. It is only 13 sentences long and does not refer to any specific state or attack. Rather, it is a generic script that provides no specific information.

DHS has yet to produce any of the other requested documents.

1. Please immediately produce copies of all documents related to the Russian government-backed attempts to monitor, penetrate, or hack state election systems during the presidential election campaign of 2016, including but not limited to the tools the attackers used, the tactics they utilized, the results of your conversations with these states, and the steps you took to follow-up.
2. For each of the 21 states, please provide details of your notification to state officials of the attempted cyberattacks, including:
 - the date of the notification;

¹ *What We Know about the 21 States Targeted by Russian Hackers*, Washington Post (Sept. 23, 2017) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/09/23/what-we-know-about-the-21-states-targeted-by-russian-hackers/?utm_term=.776577e66d8a).

- the names of the state officials or offices that were notified;
- the name of the DHS division that provided the notification;
- whether it was a telephonic notification, or by other means;
- services offered during the notification; and
- the dates of any subsequent communications relating to cyberattacks with state officials.

3. Did DHS notify any other states that their election infrastructure had been targeted by cyberattacks in 2016? If so, please provide similar details of your notifications to those States, using the format above.

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October 20, 2017

The Honorable Robert Kolasky
Acting Deputy Under Secretary
National Protections and Programs Directorate
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Deputy Under Secretary Kolasky:

Last month, the Department of Homeland Security reportedly notified election officials in 21 states that Russian government hackers had targeted those states during the 2016 election.¹ We are writing to request copies of these notifications and additional documents, as well as a briefing from top Department officials on these matters.

The Department's notifications to these states came nearly a year after the election and three months after the Department publicly disclosed that individuals connected with the Russian government sought to hack voter registration files and public election sites in 21 states.² They also came after numerous other reports that Russia engaged in a multifaceted campaign to disrupt the 2016 election, including widespread cyber-attacks on state-election infrastructure systems.³

The Department's recent convening of the Government Coordinating Council for the Election Infrastructure Subsector, with representatives from the Election Assistance Commission, the National Association of Secretaries of State and state and local election officials, will hopefully facilitate the sharing of information and expertise.⁴

¹ *DHS Tells States About Russian Hacking During 2016 Election*, Washington Post (Sept. 22, 2017) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/dhs-tells-states-about-russian-hacking-during-2016-election/2017/09/22/fd263a2c-9fe2-11e7-8ea1-ed975285475e_story.html?utm_term=.55b916d66ca3).

² *Russians Tried to Hack Election Systems in 21 States, U.S. Officials Say*, Chicago Tribune (June 21, 2017) (online at www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-homeland-security-chief-intelligence-panel-20170621-story.html).

³ See, e.g., Department of Homeland Security, *Joint Analysis Report: GRIZZLEY STEPPE—Russian Malicious Cyber Activity* (Dec. 29, 2016) (online at www.us-cert.gov/sites/default/files/publications/JAR_16-20296A_GRIZZLY%20STEPPE-2016-1229.pdf); Office of the Director of National Intelligence, *Background to "Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections": The Analytic Process and Cyber Incident Attribution* (Jan. 6, 2017) (online at www.dni.gov/files/documents/ICA_2017_01.pdf).

⁴ Department of Homeland Security, *DHS and Partners Convene First Election Infrastructure Coordinating Council* (Oct. 14, 2017) (online at www.dhs.gov/news/2017/10/14/dhs-and-partners-convene-first-election-infrastructure-coordinating-council).

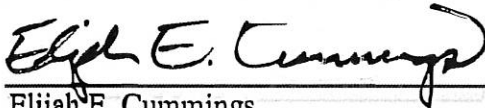
We request that you produce, by October 31, 2017, copies of the notifications sent by the Department to these 21 states, as well as all accompanying materials relating to Russian government-backed attempts to hack state election systems.

We also request a briefing from appropriate Department officials within the same timeframe on the following issues:

- (1) the types of voting equipment that were attacked;
- (2) the timeline by which the Department provided information to these states and the reasons for not sharing additional information sooner;
- (3) services and trainings offered to states to detect and prevent cyber-attacks;
- (4) plans to work with states to detect and prevent future cyber-attacks; and
- (5) the operational plans and goals of the newly convened Election Infrastructure Coordinating Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Daehn with the Democratic Committee staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Robin Kelly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Information Technology

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Will Hurd, Chairman
Subcommittee on Information Technology

