

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write with alarm at the sudden and inexplicable firing of the Director of the National Security Agency (NSA) and Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, General Timothy Haugh, as well as the reassignment of the Deputy Director of the NSA, Wendy Noble. Not only have both dutifully served this nation for decades under both Democratic and Republican administrations, but their removals were conducted in the middle of the night with no consultation with Congress and, according to reports, at the behest of a private citizen who has a record of promoting conspiracy theories.¹

These actions severely compromise our ability to keep Americans safe. As you are well aware, our nation currently faces serious cyber threats from foreign adversaries, such as from China's Salt Typhoon, with near-daily attacks against our critical infrastructure. In addition, our nation's military is engaged in ongoing operations against multiple threats, from the Houthis in Yemen to Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. Given the dangers facing the United States, it is inexplicable that the Administration would remove the senior leaders of NSA/CYBERCOM without cause or warning, and risk disrupting critical ongoing intelligence operations.

Furthermore, we urge you to exercise careful consideration and consultation with Congress on any further actions that may impact NSA's or CYBERCOM's abilities to provide the critical intelligence and operational support to policymakers and warfighters. This includes, but is not limited to, any considerations to terminate the dual-hat arrangement. Premature termination of the dual-hat arrangement would severely degrade the speed and effectiveness of NSA's and CYBERCOM's abilities to execute their missions and could have dire consequence for our national security. As Congress on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis has repeatedly made clear in the *National Defense Authorization Acts* for Fiscal Years 2017, 2018, and 2020, clear criteria must be met before any termination can be considered and both the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs must together certify that separation will not "pose risks to the military effectiveness of the United States Cyber Command that are unacceptable to the national security interests of the United States."²

¹ Ellen Nakashima et al, "National Security Agency chief ousted after far-right activist urged his removal," *The Washington Post* (April 3, 2025).

² Pub. L. 114-328, § 1642, Dec. 23, 2016.

As Members of the respective committees of oversight, we request that you formally provide in writing a justification for why Director Timothy Haugh and Ms. Wendy Noble were removed from their posts and provide a briefing to Congress on any additional actions you plan to take with respect to NSA and CYBERCOM, including but not limited to the separation of the dual-hat.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



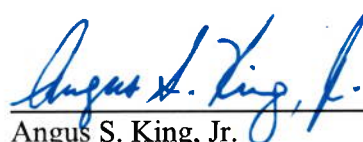
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Peter Hegseth, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence
The Honorable Michael Waltz, Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor