

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We write with concern over proposed movement of the Cross-Functional Team (CFT) for anomalous health incidents (AHIs). Since 2021, the Department's CFT has identified critical care for victims, led research into causation and provided timely information to Congress on its important work. We ask that you maintain the current structure of the CFT and pause any proposed movements of the CFT's location within the Department until the Department follows its statutorily-required briefing requirements to Congress.

Since initial reports in 2016, AHIs have been pervasively affecting military personnel and their families, both at home and abroad. Since Congress passed the HAVANA Act (P.L.117-46), more than 300 US government personnel have qualified for care in the military health system, many of them U.S. servicemembers, diplomats and members of the intelligence community.¹ We owe it to these personnel to continue to receive care while ongoing research is done on attribution and technology, which can only be done by the CFT in its current form.

Moreover, the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act requires the CFT to brief Congress every 180 days until 2028 on the Department's activities to fulfill the team's duties. The CFT has not been made available to provide these briefings since 2024 -- which is not only a violation of the law, but raises concerns over the motivations of some within your Department on continuing the CFT's important work.

Finally, during your confirmation before the Armed Services Committee, you stated in Questions for the Record that "if confirmed, I will fully support DoD facilities continuing to care for diplomats, intelligence professionals and other U.S. government employees suffering AHI symptoms."² It was also President Trump's first administration that began investigating the source of the phenomenon when AHIs were first reported. Therefore, any proposed changes to

¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Havana Syndrome: Better Patient Communication and Monitoring of Key DOD Tasks Needed to Better Ensure Timely Treatment*, GAO-24-106593 (Washington, GAO, 2024), <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106593>

² Response from Secretary Hegseth to Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Questions for the Record, Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing "Secretary of Defense Nomination," January 14, 2025, pg. 3

the CFT and its mandate from within your Department appear to be out of line with both your priorities and those of the President.

Consistent with your commitments to Congress and the law, we request that you pause any movement of the Cross-Functional Team within the Pentagon until you brief Congress immediately both on your statutory requirement and any proposed changes to the CFT's location and structure.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator