

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 5, 2017

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman McCain and Ranking Member Reed,

I write to respectfully urge you to schedule a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing as soon as possible to examine recent reports that Russian state hackers obtained National Security Agency (NSA) hacking tools and classified documents from the personal computer of an NSA contractor.

According to reports, the security breach occurred in 2015, but was not discovered until a year later. It is also reported that the hackers were able to retrieve documents through Kaspersky Lab antivirus software. As you are aware, I have been concerned about the serious dangers of using Kaspersky software due the company's strong ties to the Kremlin. That is why I included a provision in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that prohibits any department, agency, organization, or other element of the United States Government from using hardware, software, or services developed or provided, in whole or in part, by Kaspersky Lab or any entity of which Kaspersky Lab has a majority ownership.

Again, I urge you to expeditiously schedule a hearing to receive testimony from administration officials, including NSA Director Admiral Michael Rogers, about the nature of this security breach and what the federal government is doing to prevent future incidents. Given, the serious national security implications of this breach and the jurisdictional relevance to the Armed Services Committee, I believe a full committee hearing on this issue would be beneficial both to members of the committee and the constituents they represent.

I greatly appreciate your timely attention to this serious issue.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator