

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We have received the report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) *An Assessment of Illness in U.S. Government Employees and their Families at Overseas Embassies (2020)* and have read it with great interest. It is unfortunate that we had to wait so long for its release, but the implications of the report are even more unsettling, as it concludes that some type of pulsed radio frequency attack may have caused the mysterious injuries suffered by U.S. personnel serving abroad. While the NAS report acknowledges that this finding is not conclusive, it casts serious doubt on several alternative explanations, and emphasizes that the mere possibility that these injuries were caused by an attack should be a cause for grave concern. The NAS report also highlights that its authors were limited in the amount and type of information available to them, and recommends that the Department of State and other U.S. government agencies cooperate with fully-cleared subject-matter experts to assess all relevant information.

We have appreciated your staff's collaboration on legislation to authorize long-term, emergency care benefits for those affected, but continue to be concerned that, thus far, the Department has not been forthcoming with key details about the incidents involving the serious injuries incurred by several of these personnel. We also have very limited information regarding the Department's assessment of causation and ways to prevent future incidents. It is imperative that the Department provide us the relevant information currently in its possession. There are many basic questions that we should know the answers to, including:

- Does the Department believe these injuries were, or may have been, caused as a result of attacks by a foreign adversary?
- If not why not, and does the Department, or any other Federal agency have credible information that suggests a different cause?
- How many U.S. government personnel and dependents have been affected, and which agencies are they associated with?
- Where did the incidents take place?
- Are these incidents continuing?
- When and where was the most recent incident?
- Have any taken place on U.S. soil?

- Has the Department taken steps to implement the recommendations noted in the NAS report?

It is also imperative that the Department takes care of the personnel who have been injured. We appreciate our work together thus far and look forward to working with the Department to ensure that the U.S. government provides the best treatment possible.

Finally, we look forward to the opportunity to discuss with you how the Department is implementing the recommendations of the NAS report as well as the Cuba Accountability Review Board report from August 30, 2018 and the Center for Disease Control's 2019 report entitled "Cuba Unexplained Events Investigation." That latter report noted that many of the recommendations may require legislative action, and we look forward to working with you and the Department to take all appropriate measures to address this apparent threat.

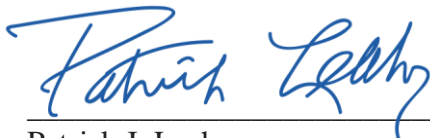
Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



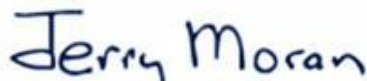
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