

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Daniel Coats
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Acting Secretary Duke and Director Coats,

I write to urge you to declassify information on Kaspersky Lab and its products in order to allow the American people to make informed decisions about risks to their privacy and security.

Since Russia's interference in our 2016 election, I have been focused on addressing threats posed to our nation's cyber infrastructure. Unfortunately, we have seen that software designed to protect our federal systems against cyber threats can also be used against us if not properly vetted. The use of Kaspersky Lab's antivirus software, which exposes client data to Russian government surveillance, in federal departments and agencies was particularly eye-opening and deeply disturbing.

After learning that Kaspersky Lab products were featured on the GSA schedule and allowed to operate across U.S. agencies, I included language, with broad bipartisan support, in the FY18 National Defense Authorization Act to prohibit their use in the U.S. Government. While I commend the administration for heeding my call and ordering the removal of Kaspersky Lab products from federal agencies, I remain concerned about their use in non-government systems.

As we now know, Kaspersky Lab was used by Russian intelligence services to obtain highly-sensitive data through targeting an NSA employee's home computer. Furthermore, Kaspersky Lab has engaged in a campaign of offering free anti-virus protection to computer users nationwide, despite the seeming ramifications to the company's bottom line.

These incidents as well as the long-standing links between Kaspersky Lab and the Kremlin continue to concern me and my colleagues. Therefore, I urge you to declassify information about Kaspersky Lab and its products for the public good.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter, and I look forward to working with you to more effectively secure our nation's cyber infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne Shaheen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator