

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C., 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

For several years, cybersecurity experts have repeatedly warned that U.S. cellular communications networks are vulnerable to surveillance by foreign governments, hackers, and criminals exploiting vulnerabilities in Signaling System 7 (SS7). According to published media reports, U.S. cellular phones can be tracked, tapped, and hacked—by adversaries thousands of miles away—through SS7-enabled surveillance.


We are deeply concerned that the security of America's telecommunications infrastructure is not getting the attention it deserves. Although there have been a few news stories about this topic, we suspect that most Americans simply have no idea how easy it is for a relatively sophisticated adversary to track their movements, tap their calls, and hack their smartphones. We are also concerned that the government has not adequately considered the counterintelligence threat posed by SS7-enabled surveillance.

We understand that the Department of Homeland Security has been focusing on the SS7 threat for a number of years. As such, we would appreciate answers to the following questions by March 31, 2017.

1. Do you have any reason to doubt the significance of the SS7-enabled surveillance threat?
2. What resources has DHS allocated to identifying and addressing SS7-related threats? Are these resources sufficient to protect U.S. government officials and the private sector?
3. Have U.S. wireless carriers provided all necessary assistance in determining the extent to which their networks are vulnerable, and the extent to which SS7-enabled access to their cellular networks has been exploited by foreign adversaries?
4. Congress has been sounding the alarm about SS7-enabled surveillance for nearly a year. What steps has DHS taken to make the public aware of these threats?

Sincerely,

  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress