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United States Senate

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March 17, 2020

The Honorable Christopher Krebs
Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
200 Independence Ave SW
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Robert Redfield
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

The Honorable Francis Seller Collins
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Director Krebs, Secretary Azar, Director Redfield, and Director Collins:

As the U.S. government responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge you to allow the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to assess infrastructure at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Following reports of cyberactivity on Sunday, March 15, 2020, on the HHS computer system, I urge CISA to perform a comprehensive review of all computer-based IT and network systems at HHS, CDC, and NIH to identify and address any vulnerabilities now to limit exposure to future cyber incidents. We also urge you to work collaboratively to swiftly determine what additional resources and staff you may require to secure these critical networks. Finally, I urge agencies to establish contingency plans to ensure a robust and effective response to future cyber incidents.

As this public health crisis continues, perhaps for several months, the security of these vital systems is critical to ensuring that our federal agencies responsible for public health can effectively support our response to the pandemic and continue to provide trusted and timely information to the American people.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a prominent flourish at the end.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator