

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

In light of recent media reports and testimony before Congress, we write to request an update on the investigation into the recent health incidents involving American personnel in Havana. The Department has undertaken an understandably complex yet important investigation, however we are concerned that the lack of a defined timeline or benchmarks for resolution will cause significant harm to our diplomatic, economic and security engagements with the nation just 90 miles off our coast.

While the safety and security of our Foreign Service and diplomatic personnel is paramount, the travel warning and ordered departure issued by the Department on September 29, 2017 – as well as the subsequent ordered removal of personnel from the Cuban Embassy in Washington – have limited consular and commercial services, hurting families and businesses at home and in Cuba, but have yet to help ascertain the sponsor, method, or motive behind these attacks. Although a few dialogues between our two governments remain intact, the lack of a resolution holds serious consequences for the prospects of an improved and constructive relationship between the United States and Cuba.

It has been over a year since a range of symptoms were first detected, and in order to gain a better understanding of the Department's posture heading into 2018, we respectfully request a response to the following questions:

- What are the criteria the Department is considering to determine when/whether it is safe for diplomatic personnel to return?
- We understand the FBI has produced an interim report of its investigation into the alleged sonic attacks and health ailments. Please inform us when Members of Congress will be briefed on the findings of the FBI investigation, as well as any other reviews of evidence.
- Has the Department considered enlisting the help of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or National Institutes of Health (NIH) to assist in its investigation?
- We understand the ordered departure is reevaluated every 30 days. What are the criteria being used by the Department to reevaluate the ordered departure?
- What is the Department's plan for the return of U.S. diplomats, including timeframe, in the following two scenarios: 1) The ordered departure is lifted; or 2) The post becomes unaccompanied at the end of 180 days of departure?

- Has the Department conducted an assessment of the impact, so far, that removal of embassy personnel in the United States Embassy in Havana as well as the Embassy of Cuba in the United States has had on consular, commercial and diplomatic services?
- What diplomatic efforts/programs have been put on hold or canceled due to the removal of embassy personnel?

We firmly believe that continued engagement, not isolation, is the most promising way to usher in a new future for the Cuban people. Thank you for your attention to our requests and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



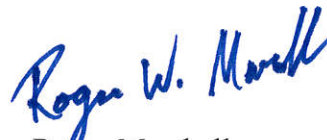
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
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Roger Marshall
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Seth Moulton
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Darin LaHood
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