

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2020

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senator

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senator

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

The Honorable Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

The Honorable M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

The Honorable Ben Sasse
United States Senator

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senator

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senator

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

The Honorable Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

The Honorable Will Hurd
Member of Congress

Dear Senators and Members of Congress:

Thank you for your letter regarding the security of the voice systems between the Senate and the House of Representatives. Both the Senate and the House take the security of our voice and data networks as an extremely important matter to support the mission of the Congress.

The Chief Information Officer, Senate Sergeant at Arms, confirmed that all calls made from Senate desktop Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones to other VOIP phones in the Senate are encrypted. Likewise, House Information Resources (HIR), Office of the Chief

Administrative Officer (CAO), confirmed that all calls made over House VOIP phones to other VOIP phones in the House are encrypted. However, calls are not currently encrypted between the Senate and the House.

The Senate is moving aggressively to modernize its entire VOIP phone system through the ongoing Unified Communication and Collaboration (UCC) project and is expected to begin with the implementation of the new phones in CY 21. The UCC effort may prove to be a necessary step for potential encrypted calls between the House and Senate.

To further explore the feasibility of encrypting calls between the two bodies, the Senate and the House will commission an independent third-party assessment of the two current infrastructures providing a recommendation to include technical guidance, industry best practice, and risks and impact considerations to ensure encrypted inter-chamber voice traffic. The Senate and the House will also form a technical working group comprised of staff from both bodies to review these recommendations and provide a detailed plan regarding the most efficient and cost-effective technical solution.

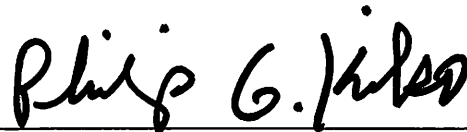
The Senate and House CIOs are available to discuss this issue with your staff at their convenience. Please contact Chris Jordan, Senate Sergeant at Arms CIO at 202-224-1391; or Catherine Szpindor, House Chief Administrative Officer CIO at 202-226-9788.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Stenger
Sergeant at Arms
United States Senate



Philip G. Kiko
Chief Administrative Officer
United States House of Representatives