



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is investigating reports that Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), a division of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), purchased a portable device with capabilities that may be linked to Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI), commonly referred to as Havana Syndrome.¹

The Committee previously held hearings on the impacts of AHIs and the negative health effects on U.S. Government officials and intelligence officers.² While assessments from the Intelligence Community (IC) do not conclusively identify the factors causing AHIs or any foreign actor responsible, an assessment from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) presented a majority view concluding that it was “very unlikely” that a foreign actor “used a novel weapon or prototype device to harm even a subset of the U.S. Government personnel,” with five out of seven agencies agreeing with that assessment.³ However, two agencies dissented from the majority view and assessed that there was a chance that foreign actors may have developed some sort of “novel weapon or prototype device” that could have harmed U.S. personnel.⁴

According to recent reporting, at the end of the Biden Administration, HSI acquired a device in an undercover operation involving the expenditure of millions of dollars, some or all of which was allegedly sourced from funding provided by the Department of War (DoW).⁵ The exact amount of money expended to acquire the device, as well as the source and location from

¹ Katie Bo Lillis, et al., *Pentagon Bought Device Through Undercover Operation Some Investigators Suspect is Linked to Havana Syndrome*, CNN (Jan. 13, 2026).

² *Silent Weapons: Examining Foreign Anomalous Health Incidents Targeting Americans in the Homeland and Abroad*, Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence of the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., 118th Cong. (May 8, 2024).

³ Mike Brest, *Two US Agencies Break with Rest of Intelligence Community on Havana Syndrome*, THE WASH. EXAMINER (Jan. 10, 2025).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Katie Bo Lillis, *supra* n. 1.

which HSI obtained the device, is unclear, but the total amount paid is alleged to be in the range of “eight figures”—which would indicate a price in excess of ten million dollars.⁶

The device in question is described as capable of producing pulsed radio waves and containing Russian components, though it is supposedly not entirely Russian in origin.⁷ Following HSI’s successful acquisition of the device, it was reportedly transferred to DoW, which spent more than a year testing the device and its capabilities.⁸

The Committee seeks to better understand the nature in which HSI and DoW acquired this device, the total cost of the acquisition, findings associated with testing, and if this device has changed ODNI’s original assessment that AHIs were not caused by a malicious foreign actor.

To assist the Committee in carrying out its oversight responsibilities, we respectfully request a classified staff briefing to include the following information as soon as possible, but no later than January 30, 2026:

1. A detailed explanation of the procurement process used to acquire the device;
2. The final dollar amount paid to acquire the device;
3. The results of the year-long testing period; and
4. What specific operational or analytical purpose did DHS have for acquiring the device.

Per Rule X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy and has broad authority to oversee “all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of homeland Security.” If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



ANDREW R. GARBARINO
Chairman
Committee on Homeland
Security

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

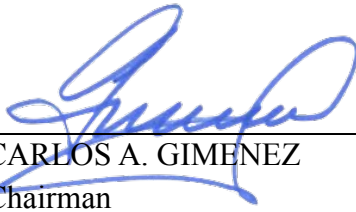
⁸ *Id.*



ANDY OGLES
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Cybersecurity
and Infrastructure Protection



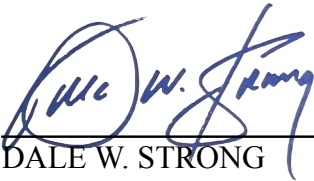
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cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security