

AUG 18 2017



Homeland
Security

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your July 18, 2017 letter to then-Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary Jeanette Manfra. Phishing emails are a common attack vector used by malicious cyber actors. By taking basic steps, organizations can help mitigate the impact of this activity. As mentioned in your letter, the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) recommends enabling authenticating email by using technologies like Domain Message Authentication Reporting and Conformance (DMARC).

As part of the Department's cybersecurity role to work with federal agencies to promote the adoption of common policies and best practices, the Department is actively assessing the state of email security and authentication technologies, including DMARC, across the Federal Government. The NCCIC will soon be scanning federal agencies as part of its Cyber Hygiene service to incentivize the adoption of these technologies. As we gain a better understanding of existing practices across the federal across government, DHS will consider additional options for promoting its implementation.

In addition to ongoing efforts to better understand DMARC practices across the Federal Government, NCCIC is also working to establish a central collection point for DMARC reports. Given that our efforts would be open source, NCCIC welcomes all parties to contribute to the effort. Once established, NCCIC would have better situational awareness into phishing campaigns and the abuse of government domains. This information will allow NCCIC to assist agencies with preventing further malicious cyber activity.

I appreciate your leadership on this important issue. Should you need additional assistance, please have your staff contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Krebs".

Christopher C. Krebs
Senior Official Performing the Duties
of the Under Secretary