January 7, 2020

The Honorable Joseph Maguire  
Acting Director of National Intelligence  
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable Dale Cabaniss  
Director, Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street NW  
Washington, DC  20415

Dear Directors Maguire and Cabaniss:

For the last several years, I have been focused on urgently modernizing the government’s antiquated personnel vetting system. Enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 last month provides Congressional and Presidential endorsement of the Trusted Workforce 2.0 initiative that the Performance Accountability Council has developed over the last 21 months. As such, I ask you as the government’s Security Executive Agent and Suitability/Fitness and Credentialing Executive Agent, respectively, to use this unique moment to realize sweeping reform and immediately issue guidance to implement this initiative.

The IAA, developed over three years, reflects Congress’ commitment to bring the personnel vetting mission into the 21st century. Its tenets are captured in Trusted Workforce 2.0, which will simplify and improve our personnel vetting system by integrating security and suitability, consolidating the number of tiers of access, and issuing guidelines to determine personnel’s trust in various scenarios. The new approach should yield higher quality decisions far more quickly, surface problematic cases much sooner, and significantly improve workforce mobility. While many important business process reforms have been adopted in the last two years to address backlogs in background investigations and adjudications, implementing Trusted Workforce 2.0’s structural remedies requires guidance that only you as the executive agents can issue.

I look forward to working with you on any providing any authorities or funding required to realize a personnel vetting system that reflects today’s threats, supports today’s mobile workforce, and capitalizes on modern technology.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Warner  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

CC:  The Honorable Margaret Weichert, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget  
The Honorable Joseph Kernan, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence