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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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June 21, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing regarding the newly created Health Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (HCCIC).

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced it was launching a cybersecurity initiative called the Health Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (HCCIC). According to Fiscal Year 2018 budget documents, this entity will be a fusion center designed to serve as “a central location for information sharing across HHS and Federal Government partners, and it will provide data and tools to aid in fusion efforts to support threat analysis efforts for the healthcare sector.”<sup>1</sup> The budget document explains that the HCCIC will be a “focal point for responding to [Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act] CISA Title I requirements,” which is the information sharing piece of the legislation.<sup>2</sup>

As you know, Congress passed the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, which included CISA and was the culmination of years of effort to make the Department of Homeland Security, through the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), the cyber information sharing hub across the federal government. We are interested in learning more about the HCCIC’s purpose and how it will interact with the NCCIC, the rest of the federal government, and the private sector without duplicating efforts already underway by the Department of Homeland Security.

In order to better understand the need for the HCCIC and HHS’s plans for integrating it within existing structures, please provide written responses and/or documents addressing the following inquiries by July 12, 2017:

1. Please provide documents demonstrating a need for the HCCIC.

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<sup>1</sup> *Health and Human Services FY 2018 Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund Justification and Estimates for Appropriations Committee*, Health and Human Services. (<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2018-phssecf-cj.pdf>)


<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

2. How will the HCCIC interact with the NCCIC?
3. Please point to and justify how safe harbor liability protections in CISA apply to entities that share information only with the HCCIC.
4. Is it HHS's expectation that entities already sharing information with the NCCIC will continue to do so and also share with the HCCIC, or does HHS intend for the HCCIC to take the place of the NCCIC in the healthcare sector?
5. How does the creation of the HCCIC affect the service Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations (ISAO) perform?
6. Does HHS intend to leverage DHS's tools like US-CERT, or will HHS develop its own analogous mechanisms?
7. Will it be voluntary for entities to share information with the HCCIC?
8. HHS is also a healthcare regulator with the ability to levy fines. Does HHS believe that there is any conflict operating an information sharing program with the same entities that it is able to fine? If not, why?
9. What is HHS currently doing with other federal regulators to assure there are no duplicative or conflicting requirements for cybersecurity?

Please contact Brooke Ericson with Chairman Johnson's Committee staff at (202) 224-4751 or Julie Klein with Ranking Member McCaskill's Committee staff at (202)224-2627 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to Amanda Trosen at [Amanda\\_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov](mailto:Amanda_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Ron Johnson  
Chairman

  
Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member