



December 6, 2018

The Honorable Mark Warner
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Dear Vice Chairman Warner:

As representatives of the industries supporting our national security and the Intelligence Community that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence oversees, we are writing to express our strong support for your legislation—the Modernizing the Trusted Workforce for the 21st Century Act of 2018—which would make critical improvements to the federal government’s security clearance process.

On August 6, 2018, our associations sent the attached letter to thank you, Chairmen Burr and Nunes, and Ranking Member Schiff for your leadership and work on the Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 (H.R. 6237/S. 3153) and urged you to retain provisions addressing the security clearance process in the final conference report.

We now respectfully request that Congress prioritize and enact the Modernizing the Trusted Workforce for the 21st Century Act of 2018 prior to adjournment of the 115th Congress—and we stand ready to assist as needed.

As we stated previously, we believe the provisions included in Title VI of the Senate Committee-passed IAA, and now in your legislation, will help make the security clearance process better, faster, and more secure. By increasing oversight and reforming the government’s procedures, these provisions will:

- implement changes that will reduce the backlog and wait times for individuals seeking to obtain a clearance;
- move the government toward a modernized background investigation process to improve the timeliness of security clearance investigations and adjudications;

- establish clear, concrete performance expectations for the Executive Branch, to which Congress could hold it accountable;
- lead to information sharing that would enable all of the public and private sectors to identify and respond appropriately to insider threat security warnings;
- expand innovative techniques and remote technologies for investigative interviews;
- support a shift to continuous evaluation as the primary means for verifying trustworthiness—moving from the current process based on the calendar, to a process based on risk and need; and
- ensure the government’s mission-critical needs are met in a timely and efficient manner.

When the Government Accountability Office (GAO) announced that it was adding the government-wide personnel security clearance process to its "High Risk List" in January, Comptroller General Gene L. Dodaro stated: “Our objective for the High Risk List is to bring attention to policymakers of the need for action sooner, rather than later. Renewed and strong top leadership commitment will be critical to facilitate progress in reducing the backlog and completing key improvements to the personnel security clearance process.”

We appreciate that you have provided the top leadership called for by GAO and believe that enactment of the Modernizing the Trusted Workforce for the 21st Century Act—sooner rather than later—will continue to make necessary improvements to the security clearance process.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Intelligence and National Security Alliance
Northern Virginia Technology Council
Professional Services Council

CC:

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
Chairman Richard Burr, Select Committee on Intelligence
Chairman James Inhofe and Ranking Member Jack Reed, Committee on Armed Services
Chairman Ron Johnson and Ranking Member Claire McCaskill, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Chairman Richard Shelby and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, Committee on Appropriations