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## **PSC Applauds Enactment of the SECRET Act**

*Legislation Requires Better Security Clearance Reporting*

**Arlington, Va. (May 23, 2018)** —The Professional Services Council (PSC) welcomed the signing of the Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency (SECRET) Act (H.R. 3210). PSC sent a [letter](#) May 7 to House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in support of the legislation—which passed the House and Senate and was [signed into law](#) by President Trump yesterday.

“Contractors are often unable to fill positions requiring clearances, even when the positions are funded under existing contracts. Essential work goes unperformed, and critical national security missions are not met,” said PSC president and CEO David J. Berteau. “While there is much work to be done on addressing security clearances and we urge Congress and the Executive Branch to continue to prioritize efforts to improve the process, enactment of H.R. 3210 represents a critical initial step in quantifying, tracking, and mitigating the growing backlog of security clearance investigations.”

“PSC greatly appreciates the leadership of Reps. Steve Knight and Gerry Connolly to shepherd this bill into law to provide much needed accountability and transparency into the clearance process,” Berteau continued.

PSC has prioritized solutions to the security clearance process and [testified](#) before Congress [twice](#) this year to highlight the negative impact of the backlog and wait times on the contractor community.

The new law requires the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau (NBIB) to submit quarterly reports on the backlog of personnel security clearances, including the size of the backlog and estimated wait times for initial investigations and periodic reinvestigations, and report to Congress on efforts to move the government toward Continuous Evaluation and true reciprocal recognition of clearances. Additionally, the bill requires that the NBIB Director submit a backlog mitigation plan that includes identified causes of the backlog, planned steps to reduce the backlog, and proposed process reforms to improve the efficiency and quality of clearance investigations.

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