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March 11, 2020

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

Ambassador Richard Grenell
Acting Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Cabaniss and Acting Director Grenell:

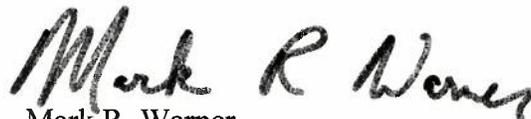
I write to ask you to issue guidance directing agencies to ensure that the coronavirus (COVID-19) does not negatively impact adjudications for government or contractor employees' security clearances or determinations of trust.

COVID-19 may have many effects on our workforce, to include financial difficulty and psychological stress. Efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 may require government and contractor personnel to self-quarantine or tend to family members, which in may cause them miss payments on things like rent, mortgage, credit cards, or other forms of debt. The impact may be particularly acute for hourly workers. This could impact their credit scores and jeopardize their ability to secure or maintain a clearance or hold a position of trust. The problem is particularly acute for younger workers who lack a long credit history. Psychological strain can naturally accompany such circumstances, exacerbating the situation.

While I understand that departments and agencies may already have certain discretion to consider broader contextual factors that may affect personnel vetting decisions, I ask you to issue clear and public guidance to ensure that departments and agencies do not penalize employees' clearances or determinations of trustworthiness due to circumstances associated with COVID-19. This guidance should apply to any information used in an initial clearance, a periodic reinvestigation, or a continuous evaluation/vetting program.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
Vice Chairman