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One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

December 4, 2017

Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Francis Collins
Director
National Institutes of Health

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald and Dr. Collins,

As the Committee awaits an update from the State Department on the investigation into sonic attacks on personnel working at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba, we write to urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to offer to take a leading role in investigating the medical effects of these incidents and their potential cause.

According to the State Department, as of October 20th, 24 individuals serving at the U.S. Embassy in Havana were confirmed to have experienced health effects due to the alleged attacks. Since the incidents were first made public by the State Department in August, numerous press reports have indicated that the health effects were caused by some type of a sonic device. Yet, a State Department official in September said that “we still do not have definitive answers on the source or cause of the attacks.”

We need to use all available resources to discover the medical cause and impact of what happened to our embassy personnel in Cuba. As noted in your mission statements, “CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats” and NIH applies “knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.” Your expertise is needed now more than ever in determining what precisely happened to U.S. personnel in Cuba.

For the health and safety of Americans serving abroad—not only in Havana but around the world—we urge you to offer to take a leading role in investigating these incidents. Thank you very much for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Eliot L. Engel in blue ink.

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Foreign Affairs Committee

Handwritten signature of Edward R. Royce in blue ink.

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman
Foreign Affairs Committee