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February 24, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20518

Dear Secretary Johnson:

As you are aware, the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, France and the rise of ISIS' intent to launch attacks in western countries have exposed vulnerabilities in the Visa Waiver Program, a finding highlighted by the Committee on Homeland Security's Task Force on Combating Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel, of which I was a member. I am pleased that Congress passed, and the President signed, the Visa Waiver Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act (Public Law 114-113), which seeks to close loopholes identified by the Task Force, including enhancements to the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

Section 207(a)(2)(D) of the legislation requires you to research opportunities to incorporate technology that detects fraud and deception into ESTA. I write to inquire about your implementation of this requirement. I am aware of a number of technologies that could be leveraged to enhance ESTA, including technology developed at the University of Arizona's National Center for Border Security and Immigration, which is in my district.

Deception can be difficult to detect when you're interviewing an individual face to face. It is even more difficult to detect that deception in online forms. The technology developed at the University of Arizona, Neuro-Screen, identifies typing, scrolling, and other computer use patterns to capture motor nervous system signals associated with deceptive or suspicious behavior. We must leverage technology, such as Neuro-Screen, to enhance screening programs like ESTA.

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry. I look forward to continuing to work with you to disrupt terror travel and enhance our vetting systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha McSally".

Martha McSally
Member of Congress