

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding the attempted murder of Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, in Salisbury, United Kingdom.

In the aftermath of their poisoning, UK officials identified the chemical agent used in the attack as Novichok, a highly lethal military grade nerve agent the Russian government is known to have developed.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, in a speech to Parliament, said the UK government had concluded it was highly likely the Russian government was responsible for the attack in Salisbury. The UK government based this assessment on Russia's known chemical weapons capabilities and the Kremlin's record of conducting state sponsored assassinations – including against former intelligence officers. The United States, in a joint statement with the United Kingdom and other allies, said it shared the UK assessment that the Russian government was responsible for the attack and noted that Russia's failure to address the legitimate request by the UK government further indicates its responsibility.

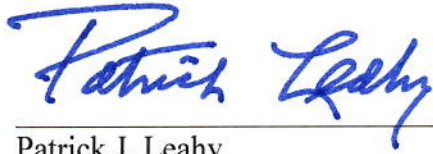
We formally request a determination of whether a foreign government has used lethal chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law and a report to Congress analyzing the attack. Given the use of such a dangerous nerve agent, as well as the origins of the substance, we believe a comprehensive analysis of this chemical attack is vital to uncovering the perpetrators and, if necessary, you should impose sanctions on the individuals and entities involved.

Moving forward, it is critical that we continue to stand by our indispensable ally and partner in the United Kingdom and take the necessary steps to confront Russian complicity in these heinous acts. We appreciate your prompt attention to this request.

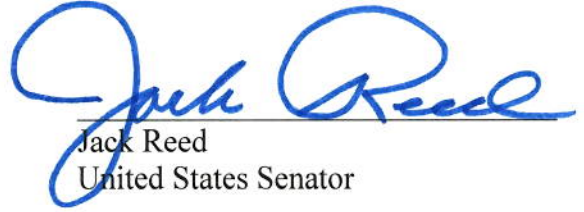
Sincerely,


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



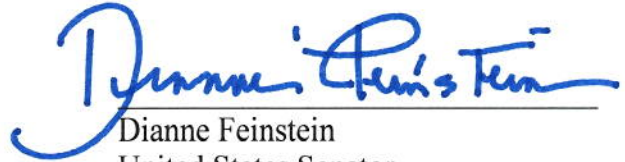
Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator