

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

UNITED STATES SENATE



Post-hearing Questions for

Ms. Robin Ashton upon her nomination to be

Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency

[From Vice Chairman Rubio]

1. The Committee has been informed that the Acting-CIA IG has already begun an investigation into the CIA's handling of workforce-reported Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI), with a specific focus on the 2016-2018 time frame. Broadening the scope of review would provide a more complete and informative assessment of the Agency's performance.
- **In your view, is it sufficient to look exclusively at only the first two years of the CIA's handling of the AHI issue?**

I share the Committee's deep interest in examining how the Central Intelligence Agency is handling workforce-reported Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI), and sincerely appreciate the Committee's unwavering commitment to ensuring the health, well-being, and safety of all members of the federal workforce. I agree that we must do all that we can to protect employees from injury or harm resulting from AHI, as there simply is no higher priority than taking care of the brave public servants who sacrifice so much on a daily basis to serve our nation.

I agree with the Committee that issues relating to AHI must be thoroughly examined to determine whether employees' well-being, safety, and health are being proactively, aggressively, and fully protected; and also whether failures, weaknesses, or inadequate processes in responding to such incidents are being swiftly identified, and appropriately addressed and resolved. If confirmed, I will cooperate with the Committee's endeavor to gain a full understanding of the depth and breadth of AHI-related issues. I will also work with CIA's leadership, this Committee, and other partners, as appropriate, to help in the effort to ensure that the most effective measures are being taken to protect CIA's workforce with regard to AHI.

I understand that the Committee has been informed that the CIA-OIG has already commenced a review specifically focusing on a 2016-18 time frame. I appreciate the Committee's question concerning whether the scope of that review is sufficiently broad to provide a complete and informative assessment of the Agency's performance in responding to AHI. I do not presently have sufficient information making it possible for me to comment in a fully informed way on whether the two-year focus of the current review is sufficiently broad in scope. However, if I am confirmed as the Inspector General of the CIA, I will immediately focus on that, and related, questions, and begin the process of independently analyzing whether the scope of the work currently underway should be expanded beyond two years.

I will communicate with this Committee regarding my assessment and plans going forward, as appropriate.

- **Are there any impediments to doing a more expansive review that would cover at least 2016 to present?**

I share the Committee's resolve that any review currently underway concerning AHI – or any additional work that may be subsequently undertaken by CIA-OIG – be sufficiently broad so as to provide meaningful, accurate information and answers to the Committee, the CIA Director, and other oversight and policy-making partners. Possessing such information is crucial to informing effective decision making concerning what steps should be taken to keep employees safe, or how best to provide appropriate assistance and care for those who may have already suffered harm or injury.

As stated above, if confirmed as the Inspector General of the CIA, I will ensure that, without delay, I am fully briefed on the review the CIA-OIG currently has underway. If I determine, based on the information available to me, that an expansion in scope of the current review beyond the two-year time frame presently contemplated is necessary and prudent, I will examine whether any challenges or impediments would prevent, hinder, or delay the CIA-OIG from expanding the focus. I will keep this Committee informed concerning my determinations and conclusions, and the OIG's plans, to the fullest extent possible.

I understand how crucial it is that this Committee obtain salient, accurate, and timely information concerning AHI, and the significant role the CIA-OIG can play in providing such information. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with this Committee and other partners to address issues relating to AHI as we work together to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the nation's public servants.