



President Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

April 28, 2025

We, the undersigned cybersecurity professionals and members of the infosec community, are keenly aware that those in our field play a vital role in protecting our democracy, securing our elections, and building, testing, and safeguarding government infrastructure. It is with this heavy responsibility in mind that we recognize with deep appreciation those who perform the essential work of good-faith security research to safeguard the democratic process. Yet it is exactly for his role in this work that the Trump Administration is attempting to punish and intimidate the former Director of the government's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Chris Krebs, with an executive order cancelling the security clearances of all employees at SentinelOne, where Krebs was Chief Intelligence and Public Policy Officer, and ordering the Department of Justice to launch a probe of his work in the White House. Krebs resigned from SentinelOne after the issuance of the EO to spend time focusing on fighting the order.

We unequivocally condemn the political persecution of Chris Krebs and SentinelOne.

It is clear that this executive order comes as retribution for Krebs' role as CISA Director in correcting disinformation alleging fraud in the 2020 Presidential election. Trump fired Krebs via Tweet when Krebs called that election, which Trump lost, "the most secure in American history." Now Krebs is facing an executive order which directs the Department of Justice to "identify any instances where Krebs' or CISA's conduct appears to be contrary to the administration's commitment to free speech and ending federal censorship, including whether Krebs' conduct was contrary to suitability standards for federal employees or involved the unauthorized dissemination of classified information."

By placing Krebs and SentinelOne in the crosshairs, the President is signaling that cybersecurity professionals whose findings do not align with his narrative risk having their businesses and livelihoods subjected to spurious and retaliatory targeting, the same bullying tactic he has recently used against law firms. As members of the cybersecurity profession and information security community, we counter with a strong stand in defense of our professional obligation to report truthful findings, even—and *especially*—when they do not fit the playbook of the powerful. And we stand with Chris Krebs for doing just that.

We petition the Trump Administration to immediately:

1. Reinstate the security clearances of SentinelOne employees, and
2. Rescind the order to the Department of Justice investigating Krebs.

An independent infosec community is fundamental to protecting our democracy, and to the profession itself. It is only by allowing us to do our jobs and report truthfully on systems in an impartial and factual way without fear of political retribution that we can hope to secure those systems. We take this responsibility upon ourselves with the collective knowledge that if any one of us is targeted for our work hardening these systems, then we all can be. We must not let that happen. And united, we will not let that happen.

Cc: Bridget Bean
Executive Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
1110 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 20598-0630

Signatories (titles/affiliations for identification purposes only, unless otherwise noted):

Harold Abelson,
MIT Professor of Computer Science

Dr. Ben Adida

Raven Alder

Andrew W. Appel,
Eugene Higgins Professor of Computer Science, Princeton University

Steven M. Bellovin,
Department of Computer Science, Columbia University

Matt Blaze,
McDevitt Professor of Computer Science and Law, Georgetown University

Jon Callas

L Jean Camp

Jason Chan,
Retired CISO

Stephen Checkoway,
Kenneth Jacobs Associate Professor of Computer Science, Oberlin College

Gabriella Coleman,
Ernest E. Monrad Professor of the Social Sciences, Harvard University

Stephen D. Crocker,
Edgemoor Research Institute

Anil Dash

David L. Dill,
Donald E. Knuth Professor, Emeritus, in the School of Engineering, Stanford University

Jeremy Epstein,
Adjunct Professor, Georgia Tech; Program Officer, National Science Foundation
(retired)

Rik Farrow,
Editor

Richard Forno,
Teaching Professor, UMBC

Joseph Lorenzo Hall,
Distinguished Technologist, Internet Society

David R. Jefferson,
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (retired)

Douglas W. Jones,
Emeritus Associate Professor, CS Department, University of Iowa

Susan Landau,
Tufts University

Micah Lee

Steven Martino,
Retired SVP/CISO Cisco Systems

Katie Moussouris,
CEO, Luta Security

Wendy Nather

Peter Neumann,
Moderator of the ACM Risks Forum

Bryan D. Payne

Gunnar Peterson

Riana Pfefferkorn



Ronald L. Rivest,
Professor, EECS Department, MIT

Andy Sayler,
Sr. Principal Security Engineer

Bruce Schneier,
EFF Board of Directors

Cory Scott,
Retired CISO

John Sebes,
Cyber Security Professional

Adam Shostack

Tarah Wheeler,
EFF Board of Directors

Kenn White

Josh Yavor,
Credible Security Inc

Daniel Zappala,
Brigham Young University

Daniel M. Zimmerman,
Principled Computer Scientist, Free & Fair