

# United States Senate

June 27, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

Like most Americans, I am deeply troubled by the horrific June 12 attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. As the FBI and other law enforcement agencies determine Omar Mateen's motives, it is critical that we also review the assailant's professional life. Of particular note is his time working as a private security guard for the security contractor G4S. In light of this company's contract work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), I would like to know more about DHS oversight of security contractors and the vetting of security contractor employees. I take our national security seriously and will work with you to ensure we have adequate and rigorous oversight of security contractors.

There are clear and troubling signs that Mateen's screening as an employee at G4S was inadequate. According to Mateen's work history, he began work as a corrections officer at the Martin Correctional Institute. In April 2007, he was "administratively dismissed" from his position at the Martin Correctional Institute, but was then hired as a contractor for G4S that September. G4S has subsequently said that Mateen passed company screenings – including psychological and criminal checks – when hired in 2007 and again in 2013. Further, as a G4S employee, Mateen was provided with a Florida state-issued security guard license and security guard firearm license.

According to G4S documents, it is an "authorized federal security supplier" and has provided professionals in the security industry to DHS, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of Energy, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force, and others. Specifically, G4S also assists Customs and Border Protection with its operations along the U.S.-Mexico border and with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to transport illegal immigrants in selected areas.

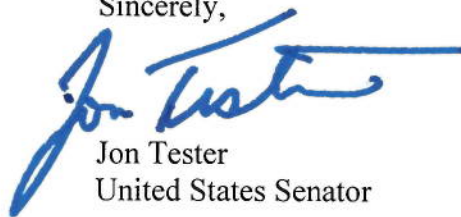
As the investigations into this tragedy continue, it is imperative that we also ensure that depraved individuals like Mateen are properly vetted and barred from these sensitive posts. It is clear that the screening procedures in place failed in this case. It is critically important that we all take the necessary steps to ensure we are keeping our nation safe by ensuring that individuals charged with the protection of others are suitable, stable, and capable of fulfilling their duties.

Because of these concerns, as well as G4S's contracts with DHS and other selected government agencies, I request further information about the following:

1. What type of background investigation and screening process was Mateen subject to at G4S prior to being hired and through his time as an employee?
2. What oversight mechanisms does DHS have in place to ensure that G4S employees are properly screened prior to and during their time as a contractor for DHS? How often does DHS conduct oversight of its security contractors, such as G4S?
3. Given the screening procedures provided by G4S, would Mateen have been eligible to work at a federal facility or operate federal equipment for DHS?

I request this information as soon as possible. If you have questions about this request, please contact Stuart Varvel at (202) 228-6276 or [stuart\\_varvel@tester.senate.gov](mailto:stuart_varvel@tester.senate.gov). I appreciate your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Tester  
United States Senator