

DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

114 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2778

12857 SW 42ND ST, SUITE 131
MIAMI, FL 33175
(305) 222-0160

1100 SIMONTON STREET
SUITE 1-213
KEY WEST, FL 33010
(305) 292-4485

September 2, 2020

Mr. Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray,

I write to request an immediate briefing into reports that Miami-Dade County Public Schools systems have been the victim of continuous cyberattacks since August 31, 2020.

Students attending Miami-Dade County public schools began their 2020-2021 school year this week. Due to the nature of the pandemic, children are attending classes virtually and solely relying on internet technology to receive their education. On Monday, August 31, thousands of students and teachers logging on to the County's virtual platform were greeted with error messages that prevented them from accessing the requisite classrooms.¹ As a result, classes were halted for over an hour and many teachers were forced to switch to alternate meeting platforms.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho confirmed on Tuesday that the County fell victim to a distributed denial of service (DDoS) cyberattack. Moreover, as I draft this correspondence on Wednesday, reports are breaking that Miami-Dade County Public Schools is again suffering from continued cyberattacks that are severely disrupting its ability to function.²

I am pleased that the FBI and Secret Service have opened an investigation into the attacks. However, as a representative of Miami-Dade County, I request an immediate briefing regarding the details of the attacks, your investigation, and the steps being taken to prevent further attacks.

We must secure the ability of our students to receive their education, and it is imperative that I remain continuously informed on developments on the manner.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

¹ Colleen Wright, *Cyberattack, Plus Software Failure, Responsible for Miami-Dade Schools' Woes, Carvalho Says*, MIAMI HERALD (Sept. 1, 2020), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/education/article245421585.html>.

² *Miami-Dade County Public Schools Targeted by More Cyber Attacks Wednesday*, NBC6 SOUTH FL. (Sept. 2, 2020), <https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/miami-dade-county-public-schools-targeted-by-more-cyber-attacks-wednesday/2287047/>.



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. George L. Piro
Special Agent in Charge
Miami Field Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Mr. Alberto Carvalho
Superintendent
Miami-Dade County Public Schools