

Hagel

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Nebraska, has faced strong opposition from his ex-GOP colleagues who have questioned his past statements and votes on Israel, Iran and nuclear weapons. It was unclear whether the delay in the vote would derail the nomination or merely postpone action on Obama's choice to replace Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

In a letter to Hagel, Republicans complained that he failed to answer several questions, including details on all compensation of more than \$5,000 that he had received over the past five years. They also had pressed him on his recent speeches, the groups he has addressed and their donors.

"The committee, and the American people, have a right to know if a nominee for secretary of defense has received compensation, directly or indirectly, from foreign sources," Senate Republicans wrote. "Until the committee receives full and complete answers, it cannot in good faith determine whether you should be confirmed as secretary of defense."

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter, which was signed by more than two dozen Republicans, including Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Freshman Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who opposes Hagel's nomination, had complained to his colleagues about the information the nominee provided during a closed meeting on Tuesday. Other Republicans raised objections to a vote.

"I'm not going to make any decision on Sen. Hagel until we get all the information we've requested," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told a

small group of reporters Wednesday. "I don't think we should be voting."

Hagel, in a separate letter to committee Republicans, had tried to explain that some of the information they were seeking was not available.

"My role with respect to the entities you identify is as a current and former board or advisory board member. I was not involved in the day-to-day management of any of these firms, and have not been involved with some of the firms for years now," Hagel wrote. "Thus, as a matter of fact, I do not believe I have any of the information requested. More importantly, the information you seek is legally controlled by the individual entities and not mine to disclose."

Senate Democrats, who hold the majority, continue to stand behind the nomination, and no Democrat has said he or she would vote against the president's pick for his second-term national security team. Hagel, 66, is a decorated Vietnam combat veteran.

About a dozen Republicans have said they would oppose their former colleague and several others have indicated they were likely to vote no.

Democrats hold a 55-45 advantage in the Senate, and two Republicans have announced their support for Hagel — Sens. Thad Cochran of Mississippi and Mike Johanns of Hagel's home state of Nebraska. More than a handful of Republicans, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., have said they oppose a filibuster of the nomination.

Cancer

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the patient, allowing doctors to conduct a treatment during which the dose prescribed goes exactly where they want it to around the tumor. The new treatment is also faster than it was before. With older machines, radiation therapy treatment could take around 20 minutes, but with the machine it could take fewer than 10 minutes.

"This machine not only does some things better and more accurately with improved treatment quality, but it also does them faster as well, making treatment more comfortable for the patient," Peterson said. "This machine will be helpful, not only in terms of voluntary motion by the patient, but also by minimizing the amount of involuntary movement of the patient."

The new device could mean the difference between a patient getting some of the long-term side effects of radiation or not getting them at all because of how precisely the new machine is.

"Patients on the new machine will be treated more comfortably as well. Instead of having them try to hold still for more than 20 minutes when a certain part of their body is hurting, they will have less pain on the treatment table and will be more convenient for them as well," Peterson said.

Another advantage of the new machine is that it has thinner leaves than the old one, meaning it is able to treat infected areas more precisely.

"If we want to be able to treat a certain area, having wider leaves on the machine is not good," he said. "We are able to treat areas with more accuracy with thinner leaves on the machine."

The new accelerator has leaves that are about 1/2 cm wide, whereas the old machine had leaves that were about 1 cm.

Although doctors have the machine at the Cancer Center now, they will not be able to treat patients with it until later this winter.

"We can't say for certain when we will be able to treat our first patient with the new accelerator until physicists do their final checks on the machine," Peterson said. "There is a very extensive quality assurance process that all new radiation machines have to go through to make sure, when we prescribe radiation to a patient, that it's the amount that comes out of the machine and that no beams are stronger than others."

The machine was delivered to Sacred Heart in December and some other hospitals have had them for a few years, but Peterson notes it does almost all the latest treatments that machines coming out even this year are able to do.

"We couldn't get the same detail with the older machines," he

said. "The machine we have been using has been here for about seven years. We're not getting rid of it because it's on its last legs — we're getting rid of it because we're committed to having the best new technology here for treatments."

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