

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2019

The Hon. Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

As Congress navigates the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) appropriations process, we urge you to increase the Homeland Security Subcommittee's FY 2020 302(b) allocation. By providing additional funding in FY 2020, the Appropriations Committee can ensure Congress is able to properly resource federal cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection efforts at the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

The American people and our government depend increasingly upon the Internet for daily conveniences, critical services, and economic prosperity. This extraordinary level of connectivity, however, has also introduced progressively greater cyber risks for the United States. Protecting sensitive information on government networks and ensuring access to safe food, reliable electricity and transportation, clean water, and secure election infrastructure through cyberspace also introduces new vulnerabilities and potentially catastrophic consequences from cyber incidents. Long-standing threats from nation-states, terrorists, transnational criminal organizations, and other malicious actors continue to evolve in scope, scale, and complexity as our adversaries move their activities into the digital world. More than ever, cyber threats now exceed the danger of physical attacks.

Despite the warning signs, investment in our federal civilian cybersecurity capabilities simply has not kept pace. Threats to our federal networks and critical infrastructure constantly evolve, and our adversaries' capabilities outpace our defenses. In today's world, a flat cybersecurity budget is just as dangerous as a cut. If our fundamental cybersecurity capabilities are not fully resourced, vulnerabilities will continue to go unaddressed, and America's embrace of digital infrastructure risks becoming a source of strategic liability.

Congress must rethink the way we resource this mission. Additional investments are necessary to ensure the United States is not only capable of responding to the global threat, but that we are preparing for future threats as well. We urge the Committee to break from the status quo and increase the Homeland Security Subcommittee's 302(b) allocation commensurate with the threat. It is imperative that the Homeland Security Subcommittee's 302(b) allocation enable CISA to mature and grow the services it provides to secure federal and critical infrastructure networks.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and applaud the Committee's historic support of DHS's cybersecurity and infrastructure protection activities. Increased funding provided over the past few years has helped CISA bring federal departments and agencies into the National Cybersecurity Protection System, sped deployment of Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation tools and capabilities across the federal enterprise, and dramatically expanded our nation's election security efforts. Now that CISA has demonstrated it is up to the task, it is time for Congress to resource the agency to fully execute its critical homeland security mission.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Benjamin H. Thompson



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