June 4, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: H.R. 2721/S. 1466, the Cyber Ready Workforce Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the nation’s leading state technology councils, we write today to express our strong support for H.R. 2721/S. 1466, the Cyber Ready Workforce Act, and urge the House of Representatives and Senate to pass this important legislation during the 116th Congress.

We speak on behalf of tens of thousands of entrepreneurs, businesses, and employees. Our membership spans the country, ranging in size from small startup organizations to some of the largest and most influential companies in the world. We are uniquely positioned to address any number of issues facing the technology industry.

The Cyber Ready Workforce Act would establish a grant program at the Department of Labor that intermediaries such as colleges, non-profit organizations, workforce development boards, and businesses could pursue to create, implement, and expand registered apprenticeships in cybersecurity. In addition to the technical instruction, the grants could be used to provide support services to apprentices such as career counseling, mentorships, and transportation, housing, and childcare assistance.

Today’s economy is increasingly dependent on the technology industry to create jobs and drive economic growth. In 2018 alone, there were nearly 12 million technology jobs in the United States, and the industry created almost $2 trillion of direct economic output.\(^1\) That success is partially due to the bright minds that protect the nation’s networks and infrastructure.

However, additional investments are needed to ensure there are enough cybersecurity professionals in the United States to protect our leadership. While there were more than 700,000 cybersecurity jobs in the United States last year, there were also more than 300,000 cybersecurity job openings.\(^2\) This skills gap could expose the nation to bad actors, threatening our role as global innovation and economic hub.

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It is for these reasons we support the Cyber Ready Workforce Act and respectfully request that it be passed in the House of Representatives and Senate in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Holland  
Vice President, Federal & Global Policy  
CompTIA

Tim Jemal  
Executive Director  
TECNA

Alabama  
Tech Birmingham

Arizona  
Arizona Technology Council (AZTC)

California  
California Technology Council (CTC)  
Tech San Diego

Colorado  
Colorado Technology Association (CTA)

Connecticut  
Connecticut Technology Council (CTC)

Florida  
Palm Beach Tech Association

Georgia  
Technology Association of Georgia (TAG)  
Computer Measurement Group (CMG)

Idaho  
Idaho Tech Council (ITC)

Illinois  
Illinois Technology Association (ITA)

Iowa  
Technology Association of Iowa (TAI)

Kentucky  
Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK)

Missouri  
KC Tech Council

Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MassTLC)
Maryland
ASCII Group
Maryland Tech Council (MTC)

Minnesota
Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)

New Hampshire
New Hampshire High Tech Council (NHHTC)

New Jersey
New Jersey Tech Council (NJTC)

New York
New York Tech Alliance

New Mexico
New Mexico Technology Council (NMTC)

North Carolina
North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA)

North Dakota
Technology Association of North Dakota

Ohio
OHTec

Oregon
Technology Association of Oregon (TAO)

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies (PACT)
Pittsburgh Technology Council

Tennessee
Greater Nashville Technology Council
Greater Memphis IT Council

Texas
Tech Titans

Utah
Utah Technology Council

Vermont
Vermont Technology Alliance

Washington
Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA)

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Technology Council (WTC)

Cc: U.S. House Education and Labor Committee; U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee