

# United States Senate

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

August 30, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee  
on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Peters:

Thank you for your tireless work to safeguard the United States Homeland from physical and cyber threats. As the Committee continues to work on the homeland security title of the forthcoming budget reconciliation package, I am writing to follow up with more information on some of the topics we've covered in previous member discussions: building and strengthening a national cybersecurity workforce pipeline capacity and investing in the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) to protect nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attack, including from domestic violent extremism.

Recent, unprecedented cyberattacks like the SolarWinds and Colonial Pipeline breaches demonstrate the urgency of solving the national cybersecurity workforce shortage. To address this gap, the Department of Homeland Security launched the Cybersecurity Education and Training Assistance Program (CETAP) in 2012 with the goal of providing cybersecurity education to every K-12 student in the United States. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 included the bipartisan *PROTECT (Providing Resources for Ongoing Training and Education in Cyber Technologies) Act*, bipartisan legislation that I introduced that formally authorized CETAP and codified the program's mission as a leader in the dissemination of cybersecurity-focused K-12 education resources and training. By increasing funding for CETAP in the budget reconciliation bill, we can expand cybersecurity education access in classrooms across the country and allow the program to reach its full potential.

I want to express my deep appreciation to you and your staff for working with me to include in the July 2021 committee markup the *Civilian Cybersecurity Reserve Act (S. 1324)*, bipartisan legislation I introduced which would equip the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) with the supplemental personnel needed to respond to significant cyber incidents and keep our nation safe at times of greatest needs. As our nation faces unprecedented cyberattacks and federal agencies experience a consistent shortage of cyber talent, establishing a civilian cybersecurity reserve would improve the U.S. cyber workforce's capacity to respond to increasingly grave and rapidly evolving cyber threats. I appreciate your consideration of my work in this area and urge you to provide the Department of Homeland Security with the funding

needed to maintain a cyber surge capacity. I also strongly support other efforts to strengthen the cybersecurity workforce pipeline, including increasing the participation of underrepresented populations in cybersecurity and supporting the creation, implementation, and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in cybersecurity.

Additionally, I want to thank you and your staff for following up with my office about the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. As I've mentioned before, I strongly support increasing the funding of this program from its current level of \$180 million to \$360 million for the next fiscal year. Nonprofit organizations including synagogues, Jewish community centers, churches, mosques, and other places of worship have faced increased threats in recent years from domestic violent extremists. This program provides crucial resources for target hardening and other security enhancements, and the reconciliation legislation gives our committee a chance to offer those protections to more Americans. I also support efforts to fully resource CISA's Protective Security Advisor program to ensure advisors are proactively disseminating information to secure non-profit organizations, including houses of worship, from domestic violent extremists.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued work in Congress to ensure the Department of Homeland Security has the resources needed to succeed.



Jay Rosen

JEWISH INSIDER