



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 116<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> This skills gap could expose the nation to bad actors, threatening our role as global innovation and economic hub.

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<sup>1</sup> "Cyberstates 2019." CompTIA. March 2019. <https://www.cyberstates.org/>

<sup>2</sup> "CyberSeek." CompTIA. 2018. <https://www.cyberseek.org/index.html>

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 116<sup>th</sup> 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

