



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subcommittee Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

CISA 2025: The State of American Cybersecurity from a Stakeholder Perspective

March 23, 2023

As Ranking Member Swalwell observed in his opening statement, this subcommittee has an impressive record of bipartisan action. I commend former Chairwoman Clarke on everything she accomplished last Congress with then-Ranking Member Garbarino – from Cyber Incident Reporting legislation to the State and local cybersecurity grant program. And I sincerely hope that this Congress the Chairman and Ranking Member will continue the strong tradition of seeking common ground to advance critical security policy.

I am proud of the organization CISA has become over the past four-and-a-half- years, thanks in large part to the work of this Committee. It has matured into a powerful convener of public and private sector capacity, with an ability to rapidly shift focus in response to national security dynamics. Like Ranking Member Swalwell, I am enthusiastic about CISA’s potential, but want to strike the right balance between continuing to grow CISA’s authorities and making sure that it can execute the missions and objectives Congress has already authorized.

I am also concerned that CISA’s important work on cybersecurity may have come at the cost of a diminished focus on its obligations related to the physical security of critical infrastructure. As our world becomes more interconnected and the line between cyber and physical security continues to blur, we must redouble our efforts on ensuring our critical infrastructure is resilient to all threats. In that vein, new goals in one of CISA’s divisions cannot come at the cost of diminishing capacity in another.

I am interested in learning more about Director Easterly’s plans to work with Sector Risk Management Agencies (SRMA) to identify and provide enhanced support to “target rich, cyber poor” entities, and I hope that in doing so, CISA considers the overall resilience. On a related note, I am concerned about a proposed funding cut for the Infrastructure Security Division and how it could impact CISA’s ability to effectively serve as an SRMA for eight critical infrastructure sectors and partner with other SMRAs across government. Ensuring that CISA has the resources and expertise to fulfill its cross-sector and SMRA obligations is essential to building national resilience, and I will be interested to learn what more this Committee can do to grow that capability at CISA.

Finally, this Committee passed landmark pieces of cybersecurity legislation last Congress, and now it is our responsibility to ensure that they are implemented as Congress envisioned. Toward that end, I will be interested to understand how the private sector witnesses have engaged with CISA as it works to draft the cyber incident reporting rule and how multiple incident reporting requirements could impact incident response.

I am also interested in perspectives on the implementation of the State and local cybersecurity grant program, how it is improving security across the country, and how we can maintain this progress moving forward. Stakeholder perspectives are critical to this Committee’s work, and I thank the witnesses for being here today.

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