



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Evaluating CISA's Federal Civilian Executive Branch Cybersecurity Programs

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We all remember learning about the SolarWinds intrusion in December 2020, which highlighted how vulnerable Federal agencies were to foreign espionage campaigns and how outdated our Federal network cyber defenses were. While the creation of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency in 2018 represented a major step forward in developing an organization charged with leading the operational defense of Federal networks, Congress did not initially provide the agency with sufficient resources to match the modern threat environment.

Fortunately, upon taking office shortly after the SolarWinds incident, President Biden quickly took critical actions to modernize our cyber defenses. By issuing Executive Order 14028, President Biden began a process of updating the Federal government's cybersecurity to combat the threats we face from our adversaries. Along with the \$650 million Congress provided to CISA in the *American Rescue Plan Act* and steady increases in CISA's budget, efforts over the last three years have brought meaningful gains in improving CISA's visibility and response capabilities throughout the Federal Civilian Executive Branch.

Investments in endpoint detection and response technologies across Federal agencies have helped improve the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program and has brought the Federal government in line with the cybersecurity practices standard in much of the private sector. In recent cyber incidents, we have seen how an improved CDM dashboard and increased visibility have enabled CISA to move quickly to identify vulnerabilities across the Federal government and mitigate risk. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about how CISA can continue to improve the CDM program, including how it can gain visibility into operational technology, a priority for me.

In this year's budget request, the Administration has now proposed a much-needed restructuring of the National Cybersecurity Protection System. By establishing the Cyber Analytics and Data System, CISA hopes to more efficiently analyze the ever-increasing amount of data it receives from Federal agencies, state and local governments, and critical infrastructure. Hearing from private sector partners should help ensure CISA develops this new program in a way that reflects the expertise of leading cybersecurity companies, while maintaining and evolving the network detection and prevention capabilities of the EINSTEIN program. Without sustained support for CISA's federal network security programs going forward, the progress we have made in recent years may stall.

A government shutdown or a year-long continuing resolution would restrict CISA's ability to move forward with efforts to continue CDM modernization or deploy the new CADS program. Operating under a CR is problematic for any agency; in the world of cybersecurity, where our adversaries are constantly innovating, operating under last year's budget or no budget at all could be devastating for our national security.

I hope my Republican colleagues will stop holding government funding hostage to their inhumane and ineffective border proposals and instead come to the negotiating table to develop a bipartisan full-year appropriations agreement.

I am proud of the tremendous achievements we have had in recent years to provide CISA the resources and authorities it needs to better secure Federal agencies. Only with bipartisan support for CISA and its mission can we continue to build on our previous work.

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