



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

In Defense of Defensive Measures: Reauthorizing Cybersecurity Information Sharing Activities that Underpin U.S. National Cyber Defense

May 15, 2025

Ten years ago, Congress enacted legislation that transformed how the government and private sector collaborate to defend the nation against cyber threats. The Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 reflects a hard-fought compromise that took years and multiple Congresses to accomplish.

Many of the witnesses testifying today worked with Congress over the multi-year authorization effort to ensure the bill included protections for privacy and civil liberties and establish appropriate mechanisms for information sharing. I'd like to thank you for your efforts to get CISA 2015 enacted then and to get it reauthorized now. Today, CISA 2015 serves as the foundational authority for critical public-private collaboration programs – from CISA's Ransomware Task Force and Notification Initiative to the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative – as well as private sector information sharing organizations like information sharing and analysis centers (ISACs).

More broadly, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act transformed security culture, creating within the private sector a bias toward sharing information with government and each other through both formal and informal mechanisms. As a result, government has been able to work with the private sector to more dynamically respond to a range of cyber threats from our most sophisticated adversaries and cyber criminals.

While I recognize that there is room to improve and modernize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, we cannot allow efforts to rethink the bill to interfere with its timely reauthorization. This critical authority expires in just 44 legislative days. If history is any guide, changes to CISA 2015 - however minor – will involve multiple stakeholders and multiple rounds of careful negotiation. I recommend, in the strongest terms, that this Committee move a clean, ten-year extension of CISA 2015 as soon as possible to ensure continuity of the collaboration programs that both government and the private sector rely on.

Doing so will send a strong message to the security community that despite the current upheaval across government, Congress remains committed to ensuring the Federal government is a strong security partner. It will also make clear to our adversaries that our political divisions will not distract us from our obligation to defend the critical infrastructure Americans rely on every day from cyberattacks.

I appreciate the Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Member's commitment to reauthorizing the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, and I look forward to working with them to get it across the finish line.

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