



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

*Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hearing Statement of Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee Ranking Member Eric Swalwell (D-CA)**

### ***Evaluating Federal Cybersecurity Governance***

**October 25, 2023**

Federal agency networks house our most sensitive information. It is no surprise that our most formidable adversaries, like Russia, China, and Iran, routinely try to gain access to them. As global dynamics shift and technology evolves, we must continuously work to stay ahead of our adversaries. The good news is we have made tremendous progress in recent years. The Federal government is now in a position to both lead by example and transform how vendors and consumers approach security.

President Biden's Executive Order 14028 finally set the Federal government on the path toward adopting modern cybersecurity best practices, including the implementation of Zero Trust Architectures, improving software supply chain security, and the deployment of endpoint detection and response technology. By setting new security standards for the Federal government, we will drive security improvements throughout the marketplace and that means better security for everyone.

For its part, Congress has empowered agencies across government to better execute their network security missions. Nearly three years ago, Congress authorized the Office of the National Cyber Director to develop and implement a National Cyber Strategy and ensure agency budgets are consistent with the goals of the Strategy.

Additionally, Congress has expanded CISA's authorities beyond issuing Binding Operational Directives and Emergency Directives to include persistent hunting authorities. With additional resources from Congress, CISA and Federal agencies have moved the Continuous Diagnostic and Mitigation program forward, bringing to fruition longstanding goals of increased visibility into agency networks, enabling better detection of and response to cyber incidents.

I look forward to hearing more from our witnesses on how these investments and initiatives have achieved tangible results. The bad news is we cannot wait for another crisis to spring into action.

Our adversaries are constantly evolving their capabilities, and new technologies pose both challenges and opportunities. Emerging technologies like AI and quantum computing will continue to transform the cyber capabilities of our adversaries and the ability to defend our networks. The ongoing migration to cloud computing has also shifted how we approach cybersecurity. To combat these risks, we must continue to modernize our networks and cyber defenses.

President Biden's National Cybersecurity Strategy and the subsequent implementation plan have laid out an impressive vision for how to approach cybersecurity for the threats of tomorrow. And under Director Easterly's leadership, CISA has continued to look forward, including the proposed Cyber Analytics and Data System to improve CISA's ability to process and analyze its vast amount of cybersecurity data. I hope to hear more about CISA's plans for Cyber Data Analytics and continuous

diagnostics and monitoring going forward and how OMB and ONCD will help coordinate the improvement of Federal network security across the Federal Civilian Executive Branch.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of continued support for CISA and its mission. The programs we will discuss today are essential to our national security, and the progress we have made by standing up and resourcing CISA have been the result of bipartisan cooperation in this committee and throughout Congress. Unfortunately, last month, half of the House Republican Conference, including Chairman Green and the new Speaker, voted to cut CISA's budget by 25%. Such a draconian cut would devastate CISA's ability to operate key programs to detect and respond to cyber incidents across the Federal Civilian Executive Branch, leaving us more vulnerable to espionage and destructive attacks from our adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran.

At a time when there are conflicts in multiple parts of the world, I cannot comprehend how anyone could think it is a good idea to reduce our support for cyber defense. I appreciate Chairman Garbarino's outspoken support for CISA and hope that this hearing today will help build awareness in Congress about the importance of sustained investments in cybersecurity.

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