

Ranking Member Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA)

Statement on H.R. 3510 – the “Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act”

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies

MARKUP

September 17, 2015

My bill, H.R. 3510, will require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy and implementation plan for carrying out all its cybersecurity missions.

Today, DHS is not only responsible for working with Federal agencies to protect Federal civilian networks but also for helping to bolster cybersecurity within the private sector, principally through the National Cyber security and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC). It also is a major Federal player in cyber research and development and cyber crime investigations.

My bill requires that contents of the strategy to include the strategic and operational goals needed to execute the Secretary’s cybersecurity responsibilities across the Department.

It is important that the Department show clear leadership for others in government and in the private sector, particularly critical infrastructure sectors, by showcasing its own cyber strategic plan, objectives, and measurements for success across its many components.

Consideration of H.R. 3510 today is timely. Just this week, the DHS Office of Inspector General issued a report entitled “DHS Can Strengthen Its Cyber Mission Coordination Efforts”. In it, GAO provided new and detailed information on the cybersecurity shortcomings in two specific DHS front-line components.

The report also provided useful insight into the day-to-day programs, policies, and activities required to undertake the Secretary’s full cybersecurity responsibilities. Ultimately, GAO recommended that DHS develop a strategic plan to improve cyber awareness in all of its agencies.

My bill not only requires the strategy and implementation plan to tackle the functions and activities carried out by the NCCIC, but it also requires the Secretary to include plans for increasing cybersecurity investigations capabilities, amplifying cybersecurity research, development and training, and increasing engagement with our international cybersecurity partners.

In recent years, Congress has provided significant resources to DHS to build its cyber programs and workforce. Further, a lot of money has been spent to respond to cyber events and persistent cyber threats. We must make sure our investments in cyber operational plans and cyber R&D are technically achievable and transparent where they can be. Fundamentally, my bill seeks to assist the Department in the development of a clear and measurable strategic posture that can be a model for other government agencies, and to help protect our nation’s critical cyber infrastructure.