



# 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)**

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

**May 15, 2025**

As a member of the Intelligence Committee when the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (CISA 2015) was enacted, it was very apparent to me then that there was a need for greater public-private cybersecurity collaboration.

We were hearing about new cyber attacks every day, yet the Federal government had little visibility into what was happening on private networks, and the private sector was receiving little information from the Federal government on cyber threats. As I explained during the debate leading up to the enactment of CISA 2015, there was, at the time, “virtually zero relationship between private industry and government” when it came to cybersecurity.

Thanks to CISA 2015, that has changed over the last decade. CISA 2015 has provided the legal framework to facilitate cyber information sharing between the Federal government and the private sector, as well as between private sector entities. It gives companies the confidence that they will be legally protected if they voluntarily share cyber threat information with the Department of Homeland Security or with their competitors.

It is rare these days that we see such a wide consensus on any topic, but on the issue of reauthorizing CISA 2015, I have received a very clear message from everyone I have talked to—we cannot let this authority lapse. Stakeholders have consistently stated that CISA 2015 has drastically improved public-private collaboration, helping our cyber defenders better do their job.

Of particular importance to me, CISA 2015’s privacy and civil liberties protections have demonstrated their effectiveness in ensuring information shared with the government is protected and used properly. As CISA 2015 was developed, I advocated for strong privacy protections, and I am glad to see those statutory requirements have achieved their desired outcomes. We must move quickly to reauthorize CISA 2015 before it expires in September.

While it is reasonable to discuss if there are ways to strengthen the law going forward, we cannot allow such discussions to delay reauthorization, which would risk CISA 2015 lapsing and undermine the private sector’s confidence in cooperating with the Federal government.

It is also important to remember that there are steps that Congress and the Administration can take to improve cybersecurity information sharing beyond just reauthorizing CISA 2015. While CISA 2015 established the legal regime to facilitate cyber information sharing, the maturation of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has provided a central hub for public-private cyber collaboration across critical infrastructure sectors. Continued support and resourcing for CISA will be essential to improved information sharing.

If CISA lacks the people and forums necessary to receive, analyze, and share cyber threat information, CISA 2015's provisions will be meaningless. One important step for Congress to take would be to codify the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative and better define its mission and structure. And the Administration should restore the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) or establish a similar, new entity that provides a mechanism for critical infrastructure collaboration.

Additionally, we must continue to support CISA's efforts to improve Automated Indicator Sharing and implement its Threat Intelligence Enterprise Services program. It is critical that CISA has access to the best technologies available to facilitate timely and useful cyber threat information sharing, and Congress must ensure CISA has the resources and capacity to modernize its systems and services so that they become more useful to the private sector.

I know there is bipartisan support for these efforts and am eager to work together to get CISA 2015 reauthorized and to continue building out the Federal government's capacity for information sharing.

I thank the witnesses for participating today and look forward to hearing from them about how CISA 2015 has strengthened our national security and how we can continue to better facilitate public-private information sharing going forward.

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