

MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Gomer Pyle

From: Jeggo Paolo V. DyCok - Legislative Research Aide

Date: June 14, 2023

Subject: IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020 - Background Research

I have identified an existing cybersecurity law, the Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020, which can serve as an excellent example of your commitment to protecting the American people from cybersecurity threats. Below is a comprehensive analysis of the law, its purpose, its effectiveness, potential improvements, and provisions that voters may relate to.

- a. **Law Details:** I have identified an existing cybersecurity law, the Cybersecurity Act of 2020, which was enacted into law on [12/04/2020]. You can access the full text of the law at the following link: [Cybersecurity Act of 2020] (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1668>).
- b. **Summary of the Law:** The House of Representatives has enacted the Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020, which intends to improve cybersecurity requirements for IoT devices utilized by the federal government. The Act mandates the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to establish recommendations regarding the proper use and management of these devices within 90 days after implementation. It also covers the disclosure procedure for security vulnerabilities and creates rules, standards, and guidelines to address vulnerabilities in information systems, including IoT devices. Contractor compliance and waiver granting are defined, with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) monitoring execution.
- c. **Problem Statement and Background:** The Cybersecurity Act of 2020 was passed in response to the increasing frequency and sophistication of cyber assaults on many sectors, including government networks, vital infrastructure, and private businesses. These attacks endanger national security, economic stability, and personal privacy. The law aims to solve these issues by establishing a comprehensive framework for detecting, preventing, and responding to cyber-attacks. The law intends to increase situational awareness, accelerate threat response, and reinforce cyber defenses by encouraging information exchange and collaboration. It emphasizes the need of coordinating efforts across government agencies, industry partners, and cybersecurity specialists in order to effectively confront the shifting nature of cyber threats.
- d. **Effectiveness and Potential Improvements:** The Cybersecurity Act of 2020 is a key step in strengthening the nation's cybersecurity capabilities. It enables the sharing of threat intelligence, the facilitation of incident response, and the promotion of best practices. The law has strengthened collaboration between government institutions and the commercial sector, resulting in stronger cyber security. The ever-changing cybersecurity world, on the other hand, needs continual examination and future revisions to the legislation.

Continuous modifications are required to handle evolving dangers, improve information sharing methods, and promote public-private collaborations. Furthermore, offering resources and assistance to firms, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, may help guarantee that cybersecurity measures are implemented effectively.

- e. Other Observations: The emphasis on preserving personal data and privacy in the Cybersecurity Act of 2020 may connect with voters. Constituents are increasingly worried about the protection of their personal information, more particularly in light of high-profile data breaches such as the Twitter incident. Highlighting provisions that preserve privacy and increase data protection procedures can demonstrate your commitment to preserving the rights and interests of the American people. Furthermore, emphasizing the economic impact of cyber-attacks and the importance of securing critical infrastructure may ring true with voters. Many constituents rely on essential infrastructure and services such as power, healthcare, and transportation. Demonstrating your commitment to protecting these industries from cyber threats may demonstrate the direct benefits of effective cybersecurity measures for their daily lives and well-being.

In conclusion, the Cybersecurity Act of 2020 is a model piece of legislation aiming at improving the nation's cybersecurity posture. You may demonstrate your dedication to defending the American people from cyber dangers by emphasizing its goal, provisions, and the need for continuous development. Engaging citizens to increase awareness of cybersecurity concerns and solicit comments can help to improve and reinforce existing regulations.

I will be standing by for further help on the matter.

Sources:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1668/text>

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-15863/pdf/COMPS-15863.pdf>

https://www.ssa.gov/legislation/legis_bulletin_092220.html

<https://www.pwc.com/us/en/services/consulting/cybersecurity-risk-regulatory/library/iot-cyber-improvement-act.html>