

Writing Assignment #2

CYSE 406: Cyber Law

Lilibeth Rodriguez

11/19/2024

Memo

District 26

To: Tito Canduit

From: Lilibeth Rodriguez

Date: November 19, 2024

Re: Advancement of Cybersecurity Diagnostics and Mitigation Act

I am writing to bring to your attention a cybersecurity bill that I believe not only would ensure you more voters for this Fall's election but also ensure the necessary security that is needed. With your support I believe that this bill would ultimately benefit our government by strengthening the network security system and help prevent our government from future cyberattacks that could potentially affect the government agencies. The Advancing Cybersecurity Diagnostics and Mitigation Act is what I believe would ensure a great outcome while also implementing the Homeland Security Act of 2002. It is meant to systemize the CDM known as the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program by incorporating a system that would be beneficial for both state and local agencies. It would help to promote cybersecurity technologies in the CDM program. In addition, the secretary will hold many responsibilities in the involvement of the agencies by implementing, operating, and always maintaining the CDM program.

Moreover, there are various key components that will be involved when following this bill. For instance, this bill will give different responsibilities that are specific to the secretary. Firstly, this bill will ensure to give permission to the Secretary to help agencies in ensuring an effective way to mitigate and discover these cyber threats and the vulnerabilities involved. In addition, it would give permission for the Secretary to gather data, analyze the data, and visualize the data that is related to the security and cybersecurity risks at agencies. These responsibilities allow the agencies to get help from DHS as well as getting assistance from any program that is in relation with DHS and the issues that are being experienced there. The secretary is allowed to use shared services and any economic model to help determine the most affective cost-saving method to promote the best way of carrying out any sort of information. Lastly, one of the responsibilities the secretary must face will be to support agencies to help set security priorities and help manage cybersecurity vulnerabilities and assist with developing a structure for reporting cybersecurity attacks and potential incidents that can happen with the data that is being collected.

Cyberattacks develop a serious threat to our economy and national security. Unfortunately, due to the lack of strong policies and procedures we are starting to see an increase in the frequency and complexity of these cyberattacks. For instance, in 2020 there was a data breach that caused tremendous destruction to our government. It was the worst cyber-espionage incidents in the U.S. during a presidential election, it coupled

with a public health crisis. It escalated to the government worst fear which was Russian hackers being behind the attack. They were able to compromise thousands of organizations and unclassified networks operated by our government. It all ultimately led to a belief that it was the Russian government due to the uncertainty of the person responsible for the attack. Furthermore, it is evident that there was a need for a solution in this incident which involved replacing whole sections of computers and network hardware which was not cost effective. It is crucial to understand that such incidents can help prevented with the implementation of modernized cybersecurity tools and programs. By taking another step and putting in law the CDM with oversight provided by Congress, we will be able to prepare to ensure that incidents like these are managed in the best form possible.

Therefore, this law is very important and must be supported by every means, as cyberattacks on government systems are going to de-moralize Americans. With cybersecurity growingly becoming a concern, the data breaches are increasing, which needs strengthening of networks. The responsibility upon the government for citizens data makes breaches even more disconcerting. Supporting this bill and enhancing the Department of Homeland Security's resource to support other federal agencies in their work will prevent further attacks and can also serve to increase your political support.

References

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