To: United States House Representative Jaden Pyle

From: Mary Lelina-Ford, Cyber Law 406

Subject: Cyber Law Proposal

Date: June 10, 2024

Representative Pyle, your re-election is fast approaching, and I thought I would share with you an important law regarding cybersecurity, which bipartisan groups recently amended. I believe this law will capture the attention of both the liberal and conservative groups. I also believe this is for the greater good of the whole nation because it benefits not just a particular group of people but every citizen of the United States: young, old, all races, genders, and ethnic backgrounds. The use of the internet has grown significantly in our nation over the last several years, especially in the state of Virginia. Our school system is now dependent on the Internet from pre-kindergarten to universities. Even our healthcare systems now use Internet applications that make health management more convenient. With this said, the ratio of internet use versus cybersecurity has raised awareness of the lack of an individual’s internet literacy. I am introducing to you the newly passed cyber law called the American Cybersecurity Literacy Act.

**American Cybersecurity Literacy Act**

American Cybersecurity Literacy Act is a bill that helps “*increase knowledge and awareness of best practices to reduce cybersecurity risks in the United States.*” It was enacted into law by the Senate and House Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembly in 2023. For your convenience, I have attached this link to provide you with information about this new bill in its entirety: [American Cybersecurity Literacy Act](https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/s2201/BILLS-118s2201rs.xml)

**Purpose of the Law**

The American Cybersecurity Literacy Act is trying to fix major cybercrimes such as data breaches and identity theft. According to IT Governance USA[[1]](#footnote-1) There were 5,136,645,282 known records of breached incidents so far in 2,098 publicly disclosed incidents. The most breached sectors every year in the United States are healthcare, finance, business, and retail, according to UpGuard.com[[2]](#footnote-2). Lifelock by Norton[[3]](#footnote-3) provided statistics of the number of victims of identity theft. According to Lifelock, the FBI reported 27,922 victims of identity theft in 2022. This research data shows that cyber crime does not discriminate. Everyone can be a victim. Educating the citizens of the United States will lower the statistics. Unfortunately, most victims are not aware they were victims until the crime has been done for some time.

**What American Cybersecurity Literacy Act Can Do**

The American Cybersecurity Literacy Act can help mitigate cybercrimes. Most importantly, the bill can help lessen the burden of the aftermath of identity theft, social engineering, security breaches, and many other crimes that take place in the cyber world. Section 2.b.1[[4]](#footnote-4) of the act states the items the citizens of the United States will be educated on. They are:

1. *Instructing citizens of the United States with respect to how to identify –*
2. *Instructing citizens of the United States about the benefits of changing default passwords on any hardware or software technology*
3. *Encouraging the use of cybersecurity tools*
4. *Identifying a device that could pose possible cybersecurity risks*
5. *Encouraging citizens of the United States to –*
6. *Identifying any potential cybersecurity risk related to using a publicly available Wi-Fi network and any method a user may use to limit suck risks*

“The most used password by Americans today is, unfortunately, the word ‘password,’ followed closely in second place by the number ‘12345.’ A cybersecurity literacy campaign is badly needed to help educate the American public about online security and prevent the cyberattacks and online fraud that hurts millions of Americans every year,”**said United States Congressman Jay Obernolte.**[[5]](#footnote-5)I believe the act covers all the areas in which we are currently having problems with Internet use. There is no need for improvement at this time for this act.

**Provisions in the Law**

Citizens of the United States who have been victims of cybercrime have to deal with the aftermath of the crime not only literally but also mentally. The voters will relate to the law because internet use is part of our everyday life. Most, if not all, citizens of the United States rely on Internet use. Addressing the citizens' issues will provide them with more confidence and security when they use the internet. The citizens must realize that the internet is a new world requiring vigilance and security. American Cybersecurity Literacy Act is one step for citizens to take to prepare for what the internet is becoming, especially with the artificial intelligence that is about to take over some aspects of our daily lives. Both Democratic and Republican leaders also agree with the importance and provisions of the American Cybersecurity Literacy Act. “With the rise in ransomware attacks, personal data is ending up in the hands of cybercriminals. We need to prioritize Americans’ privacy and security on the internet,” said United States Senator Amy Klobuchar. “This bipartisan legislation will help increase awareness about how Americans can protect themselves online.” “Cybersecurity attacks continue to affect consumers and businesses across the United States,” said United States Senator John. “This bipartisan legislation would help increase awareness on how to mitigate cyber threats.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

**In Conclusion**

Representative Jaden Pyle, I believe I have provided good data and leaders as referrals for this proposal. I guarantee you that the citizens of the United States, especially Virginians, will be interested in this bill and will agree that they are in desperate need of this education. This bill will benefit us not only today but also for years to come.

1. <https://www.itgovernanceusa.com/blog/data-breaches-and-cyber-attacks-in-2024-in-the-usa> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.upguard.com/blog/biggest-data-breaches-us#:~:text=Sectors%20like%20healthcare%2C%20finance%2C%20business,increase%20in%202023%20and%20beyond>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://lifelock.norton.com/learn/identity-theft-resources/how-common-is-identity-theft> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/s2201/BILLS-118s2201rs.xml [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://obernolte.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-jay-obernoltes-bill-launch-cybersecurity-literacy-campaign-passes-house [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2023/7/klobuchar-thune-reintroduce-bipartisan-legislation-to-reduce-cybersecurity-risks [↑](#footnote-ref-6)