

Chairman Johnson's Opening Statement
"Mitigating America's Cybersecurity Risk"
Tuesday, April 24, 2018

As prepared for delivery:

Cybersecurity is one of this Committee's top priorities. In the five previous hearings I have held examining this threat, we have explored the importance of information sharing and the need for liability protections, federal data breaches, and the cost burden of duplicative cybersecurity regulations. The Committee has passed legislation to bolster the Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity capabilities, including the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act, which codified DHS's EINSTEIN and Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation programs to protect federal networks.

Cyberattacks targeting government agencies, private businesses, and individuals are increasing in frequency and scope, costing the U.S. economy an estimated \$109 billion in 2016. It is critical for the United States to implement a strategy to deter malicious nation-state actors and cyber criminals. Such a strategy requires robust cyber defenses, post-cyberattack resilience, and, when necessary, the ability to retaliate forcefully.

The Department is assigned some of the federal government's most important cybersecurity responsibilities. DHS's programs provide defensive capabilities to federal agencies and private industry, respond to cyber incidents, and develop law enforcement capacity to investigate cybercrime. DHS is also at the forefront of the government's efforts to support the private sector and defend the nation's networks.

Today's hearing will examine how effective federal government programs implemented by DHS are at mitigating cybersecurity risk. We must ensure these programs are successful and able to defend both government and private sector networks. I look forward to hearing more about how the federal government can support those in the private sector who are on the front lines of the cyber conflict.

This hearing will also examine DHS's efforts to provide voluntary assistance to secure infrastructure, including to U.S. election systems. The midterm elections are fast approaching, and I am glad to see the Administration and DHS working diligently to engage with the states, election agencies, and election service providers.

I want to thank all of the witnesses for being here today, and I look forward to your testimony.