

## **Statement for the Record**

**John C. (Chris) Inglis  
Nominee for the National Cyber Director  
Executive Office of the President**

**Before the  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate**

**June 10, 2021**

Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and distinguished Senators, I am honored to appear before you. I thank this committee for its support in the creation of this new role, the President for nominating me, and Senator King for his generous introduction. I also want to thank both Senator King and Congressman Gallagher for their work leading the Cyberspace Solarium Commission's efforts to improve our Nation's ability to fully realize its aspirations in and through the critical realm of cyberspace.

I want to recognize my family: I thank my parents Robert and Kathleen Inglis who gave their children the priceless gift of a home where service to others, respect, and accountability was expected and freely given as a foundation for life. And I thank my wonderful wife, Anna, and our children, Luciana, Paul and George for their love and support - which has inspired and sustained me through all of my adult life.

I am humbled by the privilege and opportunity to re-enter public service. And while the position of National Cyber Director may be new, I am mindful that the team I would join, should I be confirmed, is one that is already on the field, impressively diverse and broadly engaged. It is a team that includes public servants at federal, state and local levels, and private sector professionals whose collective efforts build, operate and defend the digital infrastructure upon which the delivery of critical services increasingly depends. I am particularly pleased to be able to testify alongside Jen Easterly the prospective Director of CISA and Robin Carnahan the prospective Administrator of GSA. Should we be confirmed, our collaboration will be an important element of any federal cyber strategy going forward.

If confirmed I expect that I should and will be held accountable to add context, leverage and strength to the distributed work of the full cyber team. To that end, the enabling legislation for the National Cyber Director has clearly laid out its core responsibilities These include forging a coherent and unified federal effort; developing and overseeing the implementation of the National Cyber Strategy, ensuring the coordination of appropriate federal budgets, policy, plans, and procedures; fostering mutually beneficial public-private collaboration; and demonstrable improvements in the resilience, robustness and defense of the cyber ecosystem.

As the legislation acknowledges, these duties require robust engagement with both the private sector, which is on the front lines of this effort, and with the Congress, to whom the National

Cyber Director owes regular updates on cyber risk and the status of U.S. cybersecurity efforts. Additionally, the National Cyber Director occupies a highly visible position in U.S. Government -- one that should be expected to offer a clear, unified voice in public communications and advocacy.

Supporting lines of effort must necessarily address the fact that cyberspace is not built and operated by a single, centralized organization **and** that it is comprised of far more than technology. Essential collaboration and integration will heavily depend on how roles and responsibilities are defined and executed, while the success of a national strategy will depend as much on the skills of our people as on the technologies they employ.

Given those realities, we must ensure that: our technology is built and deployed with security foremost in mind, that the supply-chains that support them are free from security risk, that our people are cyber literate, and that roles, responsibilities and attendant accountability are sufficiently well-defined that we remove fissures and seams in cyber defenses that offer adversaries opportunities to find and exploit weakness.

As this committee and recent witnesses before you have so frequently discussed, SolarWinds, Hafnium, Colonial Pipeline, JBS, and other incidents all signal the urgent need to secure our national critical infrastructure. The pace of events and our adversaries deny us the luxury of biding our time before we seize back the initiative that has too long been ceded to criminals and rogue nations who determine the time and manner of their transgressions.

If confirmed, I will work closely with the Congress, the executive branch, the private sector, and state and local entities to stand up, harness and realize the expected benefits of the Office of the National Cyber Director.

I thank the Committee for considering my nomination and I look forward to your questions.