

**U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee**  
**“Cyber Threats Facing America: An Overview of the Cybersecurity Threat Landscape”**  
**May 10, 2017**  
**Ranking Member Claire McCaskill**  
**Opening Statement**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This hearing is an important opportunity for us to focus on the threats we face and to begin talking about how to address our nation’s cyber security needs.

Critical vulnerabilities in cybersecurity impact our nation and countries across the globe. The federal government, states, and the private sector have all experienced cyber breaches with devastating outcomes. Just last week, a candidate in the French presidential race had electronic messages and documents from his campaign hacked and posted online in an attack that looks remarkably similar to the attack on the Democratic National Committee prior to the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The perpetrators of these types of attacks are trying to undermine our democracies by tarnishing particular candidates to influence voters and portray our electoral systems as flawed. Make no mistake – we need to figure out how to protect our governments and institutions from further cyberattacks, and we need to do it now.

One of the problems we face as a nation is that we don’t have all the trained, qualified cyber security professionals we need to adequately address these threats. Right now, the demand for cyber professionals is far greater than the supply, both in government and the private sector.

We are also missing leadership on cyber security. Today, scores of senior cyber-related positions in agencies throughout the government remain unfilled. We are waiting for nominees to be announced for two of the top cyber-related jobs at DHS, Under Secretary at the National Protection and Programs Directorate and Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications. There are essential cyber-related positions at the Departments of Defense, Judiciary, State and Commerce that are still awaiting nominations from the White House, as well. Right now, we’re needlessly fighting with one hand tied behind our back. I implore President Trump to fill these positions with qualified nominees. Cybersecurity is an area that demands bipartisan solutions. To begin, we need to ensure that our government is properly organized to protect the country against cyber threats. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that our staffs have begun discussions with our House colleagues on elevating cybersecurity within the Department of Homeland Security. Despite the significant role the Department plays in the nation’s cybersecurity efforts, cyber appears to be a secondary function within DHS. That needs to change, which is why I’m excited that our bipartisan and bicameral staffs are discussing legislation that aims to appropriately elevate and operationalize DHS’s cyber mission.

Federal efforts alone cannot guarantee cybersecurity. States and the private sector are presenting pioneering solutions to confront serious threats. The private sector owns and operates the majority of the critical infrastructure in this country and serves as the engine of innovation. I look forward to hearing the testimony from our witnesses who spend every day working hard to understand the nature of the threat and how we can better defend our networks. It is essential that we recognize and study the threats so we can develop strategies and policies to protect ourselves.

I take great pride that the citizens of Missouri have vital roles in defending our country from cyberattacks. Mr. Keeney is an excellent example of the state tapping into existing resources to amplify its talent pool and protect its infrastructure. He has been integral in developing the Missouri National Guard’s cyber architecture, which is playing a key role in training units throughout the country to safeguard their systems. In his civilian life, Mr. Keeney is the director of cyber incident response at a Fortune 200 company. He is well aware of the threats we face and has firsthand experience defending against them.

The citizen-warriors in the National Guard are one step towards solving to the nation's growing cyber workforce problem and I am pleased to welcome him.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to hearing from all the witnesses here today.