

Statement of Senator Thomas R. Carper
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business Meeting
June 24, 2010

Thank you Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins for your leadership on this issue and for letting me say a few words about the bill.

As we all know, the Internet has certainly grown over the years – both in its complexity and in its impact on our everyday lives. Our committee has held multiple public hearings and classified briefings that have highlighted the threat that cyber attacks pose to our government networks and America's critical infrastructure. These cyber attacks are increasingly more sophisticated, more persistent, and more successful.

In short -- the status quo is simply not enough.

One reform that our bill calls for is the creation of a White House office that would be responsible for coordinating the security and resiliency of our nation's cyber space. To date, Federal agencies' efforts have been ad-hoc and inefficient. As the saying goes, the "left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing." My hope is that this office will provide the needed strategic direction to more effectively deal with challenges in cyberspace before they become a crisis.

Another reform I am happy made it into the bill is the idea that agencies need to leverage their purchasing power to demand private vendors sell more secure products and services in a more secure manner. For too long agencies have needlessly spent money cleaning up after a cyber attack because the technology was full of security holes. Like a

door with no lock, hackers have used security holes that never should have been there in the first place to gain access to our sensitive networks. Our bill changes that.

I also commend my colleagues for joining me in reforming the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. As we all know, producing a plan that sounds good on paper is not the same as ensuring the plan is effectively implemented. That's why our bill compels agencies to stop producing the reams of ineffective paperwork they currently do and instead focus their efforts on defending their systems in real-time.

As our bill moves forward, I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to deal with this emerging and evolving threat to our national and economic security. The American people aren't just asking us to deal with this issue before it's too late, they demand it.