

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2004

Protect America's Critical Networks And Systems Co-Sponsor *The Department Of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Enhancement Act Of 2004*

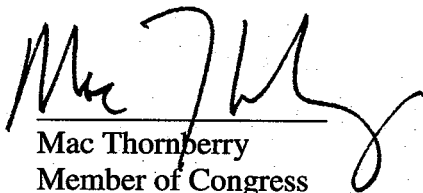
Dear Colleague:

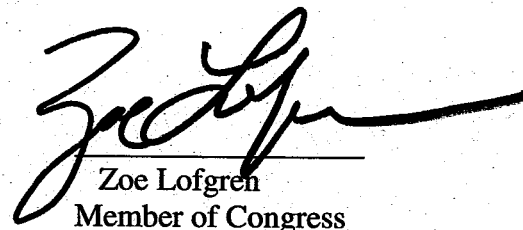
The national effort to protect our homeland requires that the Department of Homeland Security be prepared to address the increasing threats and vulnerabilities facing our nation's networks and systems. These threats, as demonstrated by the growing number of viruses, worms, and hacking attacks during the past year, continue to grow faster than our government can address them. The Department of Homeland Security must have the appropriate authority, personnel, and tools to secure its part of cyberspace, as well as meaningfully engage with the private sector on its responsibilities.

Yesterday, we introduced the "Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2004," H.R. 5068. The Act makes cybersecurity a priority within the Department and ensures that we have the necessary framework to strengthen the networks that run our critical infrastructures and economy. The bill defines "cybersecurity" so that the Department knows what it is explicitly tasked with doing. It also creates an Assistant Secretary of Cybersecurity, within the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Division, who is specifically responsible for coordinating the cybersecurity mission within the Department, as well as overseeing the related work of the National Communications System.

We invite you to support this important bipartisan legislation that has received widespread support from education, technology, and business associations. To co-sponsor, or for more information, please contact Kim Kotlar with Congressman Thornberry's staff (202-225-3706) or David Thomas with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren's office (202-225-3072).

Sincerely,


Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

H.R. 5068

SEC 1. SHORT TITLE. This section names the bill the “Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2004.”

SEC 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF CYBERSECURITY. This section amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to create an Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity within the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security. This position is tasked with overseeing the National Cybersecurity Division and the National Communications System.

The Assistant Secretary’s responsibilities shall, among other things, include the establishment and management of a National Cybersecurity Response System, a National Cybersecurity Threat and Vulnerability Reduction Program, a National Cybersecurity Awareness and Training Program, a Government Cybersecurity Program, and a National Security and International Cybersecurity Cooperation Program. These responsibilities are based primarily on the President’s *National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace*, as published in February 2003.

The new Assistant Secretary will have an enhanced opportunity to coordinate across critical infrastructure elements, with other DHS organizations, including the Chief Information Officer and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and with other government organizations. The new Assistant Secretary will also have authority over the National Communications System, so that a gradual transition to bring cyber and telecommunications initiatives together can be achieved, while also allowing the strategic policy and program direction to be established under one leader

SEC 3. DEFINITION OF CYBERSECURITY. Cybersecurity is defined as the prevention of damage to, the protection of, and the restoration from loss to computers, electronic communications systems and services, and wire and electronic communications, including information contained thereon, to ensure its availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality, and nonrepudiation. Damage, computer, and loss are defined in the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 USC § 1030. Electronic communications system, electronic communications services, and wire and electronic communications are defined in the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC § 2510.