



June 4, 2021

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Yvette Clarke
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, & Innovation
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20525

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, & Innovation
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Katko, Chairwoman Clarke, and Ranking Member Garbarino:

On behalf of the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) and the Alliance for Digital Innovation (ADI), we are writing in support of The State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2021. This important legislation will provide the Department of Homeland Security the tools, authority, and funding it needs to advance its cyber mission.

CompTIA and ADI were extremely encouraged to see this vital legislation pass the House of Representatives last Congress and we are pleased to lend our support this year as state and local governments tackle unprecedented cyberattacks on their most critical systems.

Over the past year, the pandemic has transformed the way we work, educate, and conduct our daily lives, leaving us heavily reliant on technology. In response, the cyber-attack surface has expanded exponentially leaving governments under-prepared and under-resourced to combat the rising threat. This transition led to a huge rise in security breaches. In fact, remote workers have been cited as the cause of breaches for 20% of organizations since the start of the pandemic.¹

Additionally, according to a research report by Group-IB, ransomware attacks have increased globally by 150%. As you know, ransomware attacks have caused outages to government services leaving communities unable to access the critical services they need.

The creation of a new risk-based grant program will assist State, local and tribal governments in assessing, managing, and prioritizing cybersecurity threats across the expanded attack surface.

In closing, CompTIA and ADI believe this legislation can significantly impact the ability of state, local and tribal governments to deter ransomware and other cybersecurity attacks. We look forward to working with you to ensure smooth passage and enactment of this vital piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

David Logsdon
Staff Director
CompTIA Federal Cybersecurity
Committee

Matthew Cornelius
Executive Director
Alliance for Digital Innovation

¹ <https://www.blackberry.com/us/en/products/resource-center/reports/2021-threat-report>