

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2018

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to express our concern regarding the decision to eliminate the White House Cybersecurity Coordinator position in the National Security Council. We believe that the nature of the cyber threats facing our nation, their increasing number, and the difficult policy questions they raise lend themselves to a centralized Administration approach.

In our view, an empowered cybersecurity coordinator is needed to drive and oversee a comprehensive, White House-issued cybersecurity strategy to include deterrence, defense, and network resilience that coordinates U.S. government efforts across the various departments and agencies. We urge you to prioritize completion and announcement of our nation's cybersecurity strategy as soon as possible, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with you to put in place such a strategy.

A comprehensive cybersecurity strategy would align our government's resources more effectively against threats to our critical infrastructure, so that our adversaries are less likely to take action against U.S. interests and less successful when they move forward with an operation. Such a strategy could also improve coordination with our allies to deter nefarious activity and define and promote norms favorable to U.S. interests. In addition, a whole-of-government cybersecurity strategy could help facilitate engagement between the private and public sector to make the country's cyber infrastructure more resilient and secure.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Bipartisan support exists in the Senate for rolling out a cybersecurity strategy as soon as possible. We look forward to discussing with you how policymakers can best engage with your Administration on a comprehensive strategy to protect against the cyber threats facing the country.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator