

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representative

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representative

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,


As you negotiate towards a final package of legislation related to American economic competitiveness, we urge you to maintain the Dr. David Satcher Cybersecurity Education Grant Program in the final bill to be considered by both chambers of Congress.

This provision, Section 90601 of the House-passed America COMPETES Act, includes language—updated in consultation with the Senate Commerce Committee, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Department of Commerce—built from our bipartisan *Cybersecurity Opportunity Act*. That legislation was favorably reported to the Senate floor by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee earlier this year by a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

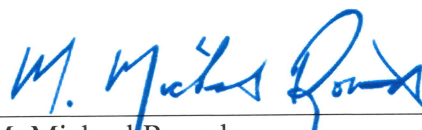
The language would authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) at the Commerce Department, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to create the Dr. David Satcher Cybersecurity Education Grant Program. This program would enhance the nation's cybersecurity workforce by awarding grants to establish or expand cybersecurity programs at institutions of higher education that serve a high proportion of Pell Grant-receiving students, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other Minority-Serving Institutions (including tribal institutions).

This initiative will build a socioeconomically and racially diverse pipeline of tech talent and strengthen American cybersecurity and competitiveness. Now, more than ever, we need to be investing in the next generation of talent that will protect our country and economy from cyber threats. We thank you for your leadership and collaboration on this effort.

Sincerely,



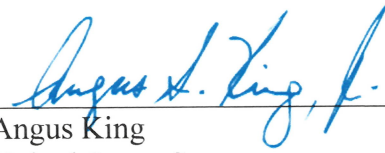
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Angus King
United States Senator

cc: Leadership and Members of the Conference Committee