

March 27, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Chair
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Rubio,

We are writing to express our support for two bills, *The Small Business Cyber Training Act* (S. 771) and *The SBA Cyber Awareness Act* (S. 772). This legislation would provide our members with resources to implement best cybersecurity practices and ensure the Small Business Administration (SBA) has a strategy in place to protect sensitive information provided to the agency.

The Council of Economic Advisers estimated in a recent report that malicious cyber activity cost the U.S. economy between \$57 billion and \$109 billion in 2016 alone.¹ The same report noted that cyber attacks can have a more harmful impact on small firms than large firms, and that cyber breaches or attacks have led a “nontrivial” number of small businesses to go bankrupt. As more entrepreneurs rely on digital platforms to thrive and grow, it is critically important that small businesses have access to the tools they need to protect against and respond to cyber threats. However, as witnesses testified to the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship at its March 13 hearing on cyber crime, the cost and time burdens of becoming cyber-secure are often high for small businesses.

Our support for S. 771 is based on the belief that Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) are in a position to help their small business clients develop strong cyber strategies. With 63 lead service centers located around the country, the SBDC Program has the network needed for SBA expansion of cyber training services to the more than 30 million small businesses in the U.S.² S. 772, meanwhile, ensures that SBA is consistently reporting on its strategies to improve the security of data our members provide through their participation in any number of SBA programs.

¹ The Council of Economic Advisers, “The Cost of Malicious Cyber Activity to the U.S. Economy,” February 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Cost-of-Malicious-Cyber-Activity-to-the-U.S.-Economy.pdf>

² Congressional Research Service, “Small Business Administration: A Primer on Programs and Funding,” Updated February 21, 2019, <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33243.pdf>

We believe that S. 771 and S. 772 are a strong start to offering entrepreneurs much-needed support to comply with cybersecurity requirements both in the private and public sector. Thank you for introducing this important legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Sullivan at 202-626-8528 or esullivan@madisonservicesgroup.com.

Sincerely,



Gigi Godwin
President and CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce



Candace Waterman
President and CEO
Women Impacting Public Policy

Cc: Ranking Member Ben Cardin
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator James Risch