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One Hundred Eighth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Select Committee on Homeland Security
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July 27, 2004

Higher Education Information Technology Alliance
1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Goldmann,

I want to thank the Higher Education Information Technology Alliance for your letter supporting the cybersecurity legislation for the Department of Homeland Security that was put forward by our Committee last week as part of the Department's authorization bill. Your input and communication with my staff during these past weeks have helped make our legislation stronger and reflective of what is important to the stakeholders of our information infrastructure. Working with organizations such as yours has exemplified how a public-private partnership can work. We hope to continue that relationship.

Over the past year, the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science, and Research & Development of the Select Committee on Homeland Security has conducted 8 public hearings, 3 closed briefings, and 3 classified briefings to Members on cybersecurity issues. We have heard from experts in the private sector that owns and operates the critical information infrastructure, as well as government and academic perspectives on their role in working with the Department of Homeland Security since its creation. It is from this and other feedback that we drafted the bipartisan cybersecurity legislation. As threats have emerged and increased in recent years, it has become clear that the United States needs to develop a comprehensive "cybersecurity" strategy and the Department of Homeland Security should be a leader in this area.

We will continue to pursue initiatives to improve cybersecurity within the Department of Homeland Security, and welcome your ideas and feedback. Thanks again for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Margie Gilbert or Kim Kotlar at 202.225.3706.

Sincerely,

Mac Thornberry
Chairman

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
Science and Research & Development