

July 16, 2004

Sent via Fax: 202.225.3486

The Honorable Christopher Cox
Chairman, Select Committee on Homeland Security
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Turner
Ranking Member, Select Committee on Homeland Security
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science, and Research & Development
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member, Cybersecurity, Science, and Research & Development
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Cox, Turner, Thornberry and Lofgren:

On behalf of the associations listed below, all members of the Higher Education Information Technology (HEIT) Alliance, I am writing to express support for the Cybersecurity provisions that will be included in the Homeland Security Authorization bill. The HEIT Alliance is a coalition of higher education and library associations established to define and promote our collective interests in federal IT policy.

Information technology has become an integral part of campus and library operations. Students, faculty, staff and patrons increasingly rely on computers and networks for scholarship and to perform administrative tasks. Securing campus networks and computer systems as well as educating the future cybersecurity workforce has become a top priority at our nation's colleges and universities. The higher education community contributed to the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace and has been an active partner with the federal government through the efforts of the EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force.

The Cybersecurity provisions in the Homeland Security Authorization bill will help to strengthen the nation's cybersecurity. We are particularly supportive of the provision to establish a new Cybersecurity Training and Equipment Program that will be operated by the National Science Foundation. Expanding and enhancing professional development opportunities and degree granting programs will help to ensure we have a high quality workforce of cybersecurity professionals.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,



Hilary Goldmann
Coordinator
Higher Education Information Technology Alliance

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Research Libraries
EDUCUASE
Internet2
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges