September 30, 2020

The Honorable Senator Johnson, Chairman
The Honorable Senator Peters, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate


Dear Senators Johnson and Peters:

We the undersigned cybersecurity companies and professionals write to express strong support for the IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act (H.R. 1668). We respectfully urge you and your colleagues to support expedited passage of the bill before the end of the 116th Congress.

Numerous credible assessments conclude that security flaws in internet of things (IoT) devices are a pressing global cybersecurity problem.[1] As IoT devices continue to enter the marketplace in large numbers, lack of basic security increases the risk that such devices will be compromised. Failure to secure IoT devices can have significant consequences, such as massive automated botnet attacks or physical injury. H.R. 1668 makes critical progress toward addressing this issue through federal leadership with minimal burden on the private sector.

The IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act would advance federal and national cybersecurity by integrating security policies into federal procurement and use of IoT devices.[2] The security policies would be aligned with the extensive body of consensus-driven work from NIST on IoT security.[3] Agencies that use IoT devices would also establish better channels for receiving security vulnerability reports so they can be mitigated, building on international standards and existing policies from DHS and OMB.[4]

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[1] For example: Departments of Commerce and Homeland Security, Report to the President on Enhancing the Resilience of the Internet and Communications Ecosystem Against Botnets and Other Automated, Distributed Threats, May 22, 2018, pg. 15, https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/eo_13800_botnet_report_-_finalv2.pdf. U.S. Cyberspace Solarium Commission Report, Mar. 2020, pg. 17, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ryMCIL_dZ30QyjFqFkkf10MxIXJGT4yv/view. Commission to Enhance the National Cybersecurity, Report on Security and Growing the Digital Economy, Dec. 1, 2016, pg. 24, https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2016/12/02/cybersecurity-commission-report-final-post.pdf.
[2] H.R. 1668, 116th Cong., Section 4(a)-(d).
[3] H.R. 1668, 116th Cong., Section 4(a)(2). See for example National Institute of Standards and Technology, IoT Device Cybersecurity Capability Core Baseline, NISTIR 8259A, May 2020, https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2020/NIST.IR.8259A.pdf. See also National Institute of Standards and Technology, Foundational Cybersecurity Activities for IoT Device Manufacturers, NISTIR 8259, May 2020,https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2020/NIST.IR.8259.pdf.
[4] H.R. 1668, 116th Cong., Sections 5-6. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Binding Operational Directive 20-01, Develop and Publish a Vulnerability Disclosure Policy, Sep. 2, 2020, https://cyber.dhs.gov/bod/20-01. Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-20-32, Improving Vulnerability Identification, Management, and Remediation, Sep. 2, 2020, https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/M-20-32.pdf.

We appreciate the U.S. Senate has many priorities as the legislative session draws to a close. However, we urge you and your colleagues to "hotline" H.R. 1668 to ensure continued progress and federal leadership on IoT security.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact us with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,


Rapid7
Bugcrowd
Cybereason
Cybersecurity Policy Working Group
I Am The Cavalry
Luta Security
McAfee
Scope Security
Scythe
Stratigos Security
Tenable



Cc.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader