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An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

On behalf of the nearly 95,000 members of the non-profit Air Force Association (AFA), I am writing to ask for your support in addressing the urgent matter of our nation's cybersecurity.

The United States continues to lag in preparing students in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines—areas critical to America's national security. Without attracting our youth to STEM disciplines, we are unable to produce enough graduates to sustain our position as the leading global economy. This problem is compounded by the increasing number of cyberattacks against the United States.

CyberPatriot, AFA's National Youth Cyber Education Program, has been successfully addressing this issue. The program features the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for high school and middle school students, AFA CyberCamps, and an emerging Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative. During the 2014-2015 competition season registration grew from 1,500 to over 2,100 high school and middle school teams from all 50 states. With your help promoting the program we hope to see that number grow even more for the upcoming season.

We invite you and members of your staff to review the attached materials on our program and to encourage high schools and middle schools in South Carolina to register for this coming year's competition. Additional information, including a list of currently registered teams from your state, can be viewed on our website: www.uscyberpatriot.org.

I draw your attention also to the enclosed "Alumni Report" that validates substantially the success of CyberPatriot in attracting students to careers in which our nation needs them.

AFA is convinced that only through innovative programs like ours can America address a critical need. We appreciate your support as we work together to do that.

If you have any questions, you may direct them to the CyberPatriot National Commissioner, Bernie Skoch, 703-247-5836 or b.skoch@uscyberpatriot.org.

Sincerely,

Maj Gen Mark Barrett, USAF (Ret.)
Acting President
Air Force Association