



Homeland
Security



MULTI-STATE
Information Sharing
& Analysis Center™



September 2014

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

Dear Governor Haley:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Center for Internet Security (CIS)/Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) and the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) invite you to join in the recognition of October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month and commit your support to helping raise awareness about the importance of securing cyberspace.

We respectfully request that you join your fellow governors in adopting a resolution or proclamation declaring October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. This year marks the Eleventh Annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and we are pleased that for the past five years, governors from all 50 states have signed proclamations or letters of support declaring October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The proclamations/resolutions could be announced during signing ceremonies, press events, or conferences in your state to further promote cyber security. These are just some ideas—we encourage you to be as creative as possible. A sample proclamation is enclosed for your consideration. We ask that your staff contact the MS-ISAC by e-mail at proclamations@cisecurity.org to notify them when the proclamation is issued.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month highlights the importance of empowering citizens, businesses, government, and schools to improve their cyber security preparedness. The Awareness Month theme reminds us that being more secure online is a shared responsibility. Creating a safer cyber environment requires engagement from the entire American community – from government and law enforcement, to the private sector, our schools, and members of the public. Your endorsement will help encourage all Americans to learn more about cyber security and how to safeguard themselves—and therefore all of us collectively—from cyber-based threats.

The risks associated with exposure to cyber dangers know no geographic, organizational, or governmental boundaries. We increasingly rely on technology and the Internet for virtually every aspect of our lives—at home, in school and at work. Government agencies, critical infrastructure, and the public are relying more and more on the Internet and computer-based and networking technologies. While there are undeniable benefits to this ubiquitous use of technology and the Internet, we must understand the security risks and take appropriate measures for preparedness.

Protecting against cyber threats is a key challenge for organizations of all sizes in both the public and private sectors, and serves as a constant reminder of the need to promote cyber security awareness across the nation. National Cyber Security Awareness Month was born from this recognition and continues to be a focal point in our shared efforts and responsibilities. DHS works collaboratively with public, private and international entities to secure cyberspace and America's cyber assets. CIS is a nonprofit organization focused on enhancing the cyber security readiness and response of public and private sector entities, with a commitment to excellence through collaboration. NASCIO's mission is to foster government excellence through quality business practices, information management, and technology policy. NCSA works to promote cyber security awareness for home users, small and medium size businesses, and primary and secondary education. These organizations endeavor throughout the year to educate individuals and organizations about the challenges we face in this information age. Additionally, these organizations and many other private sector, non-profits and government organizations coordinate and support the Stop.Think.Connect.™ Campaign—a national public awareness campaign aimed at increasing the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online.

Note: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security does not promote or endorse any person, entity, product or service.

Pelgrin, William
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Continued support from elected officials is critical and demonstrates the significant interest in cyber security as a public need. Our goal this year is to once again obtain proclamations from each governor and as many local government officials as possible.

Another component of National Cyber Security Awareness Month is the "Cyber Security Toolkit" which we will be mailing to your state's MS-ISAC Principal Representative, copied on this letter. The purpose of the Toolkit is to promote a consistent cyber security awareness message by reinforcing core themes in practical, informative, entertaining, and actionable ways. The Toolkits include calendars, posters, guides, a Cyber Pledge and other awareness materials. We encourage you to use these kits in working with your Chief Information Security Officers and Chief Information Officers to spread the word on the importance of sound cyber security practices. You may also want to consider branding these tools by placing your state's name and logo on the materials and distributing them at public events, in personal correspondence, or any other opportunity to discuss cyber security and reinforce the message of shared responsibility with your constituents.

Additional information and resources for educating citizens on cyber issues and implementing sound cyber security practices are available at the following websites:

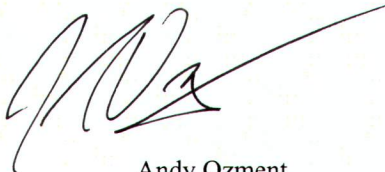
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security – www.dhs.gov/cyber
- Center for Internet Security – www.cisecurity.org
- National Association of State Chief Information Officers – www.nascio.org
- National Cyber Security Alliance – www.StaySafeOnline.org
- Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign – <http://www.stopthinkconnect.org> and www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect

We look forward to partnering with you in this collaborative effort to educate as many citizens as possible in your state about staying safe online. By working together, we can make significant progress in raising cyber security awareness and promoting security practices. Your active involvement will help to facilitate a safer Internet experience for all Americans.

If there are any questions, you may feel free to have your staff contact William F. Pelgrin, President and CEO of CIS at (518) 266-3460.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Andy Ozment
Assistant Secretary
Office of Cybersecurity and Communications
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



William Pelgrin
President and CEO, Center for Internet Security
Chair, Multi-State Information Sharing
and Analysis Center



Michael Kaiser
Executive Director
National Cyber Security Alliance



Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D., CPM
Executive Director, MS ITS
President, National Association of
State Chief Information Officers

Enclosures

cc: Marcos Vieyra, MS-ISAC Principal Member for South Carolina

STATE/Commonwealth of _____
Office of the Governor
State Capitol

Support of National Cyber Security Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the State/Commonwealth of [INSERT State] recognizes that it has a vital role in identifying, protecting, and responding to cyber threats that may have significant impact to our individual and collective security and privacy; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure sectors are increasingly reliant on information systems to support financial services, energy, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, health care, and emergency response systems; and

WHEREAS, the Stop.Think.Connect.™ Campaign (www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect or www.stopthinkconnect.org) has been designated as the National Public Awareness Campaign, implemented through a coalition of private companies, nonprofit and government organizations, and academic institutions aimed at increasing the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework and DHS's Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community (C3) Voluntary Program have been developed as free resources to help organizations (large and small, both public and private) implement the Cybersecurity Framework and improve their cyber practices through a practical approach to addressing evolving threats and challenges; and

WHEREAS, in support of the Cybersecurity Framework and to better assist business and government entities in addressing cyber threats, the Center for Internet Security/Multi-State ISAC, the Council on CyberSecurity, the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council, and public and private sector entities have developed an effort to promote good cyber hygiene through actionable guidance for government and businesses, and to promote innovation, strengthen cybersecurity investment and enhance resilience across all sectors; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the security of cyberspace is a shared responsibility in which each of us has a critical role to play, and awareness of computer security essentials will improve the security of <INSERT NAME OF STATE/Commonwealth> information infrastructure and economy; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (www.dhs.gov/cyber), the CIS/Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (www.msisa.org), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (www.nascio.org), the Council on CyberSecurity (www.counciloncybersecurity.org/) and the National Cyber Security Alliance (www.staysafeonline.org) have declared October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month; and all citizens are encouraged to visit these sites, along with <INSERT THE NAME OF THE STATE/Commonwealth CYBER SECURITY AGENCY URL> and the Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign website (www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect or www.stopthinkconnect.org) to learn about cyber security; and put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces, and businesses.

Now, therefore, I, _____, Governor of the State/Commonwealth of _____, do hereby proclaim that the State of _____ is officially supporting National Cyber Security Awareness Month and the National Public Awareness Campaign, Stop.Think.Connect.