



MULTI-STATE
Information Sharing
& Analysis Center

CYBERSECURITY
ALLIANCE



September 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the 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 help 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 (NCSAM). The proclamations/resolutions could be announced during signing ceremonies, press events, or conferences in your state to further promote cyber security. 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.

Cybersecurity is a national priority, and the risks associated with poor cyber security know no geographic, organizational, or governmental boundaries. Protecting against cyber threats is a key challenge for organizations of all sizes in both the public and private sectors. National Cyber Security Awareness Month highlights the importance of empowering citizens, businesses, government, and schools to improve their cyber security. Awareness Month reminds us that being more secure online is a shared responsibility and that creating a safer cyber environment requires engagement from the entire American community. 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 threats.

To this end, the National Cyber Security Awareness Month partners work collaboratively with public, private and international entities to promote cybersecurity awareness and to secure America's cyber assets. DHS is the U.S. government's lead for civilian cybersecurity protection, information sharing, and incident response. The MS-ISAC is the focal point for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation's state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments. NASCIO coordinates and supports state Chief Information Officers (CIOs) to foster government excellence through quality business practices, information management, and technology policy. NCSA works to promote cyber security awareness for individual users, small and medium size businesses, and primary and secondary educational institutions. These organizations endeavor throughout the year to educate individuals and organizations about the challenges posed by in increasingly networked world – and to ensure that we continue reap the benefits from innovation and technology. Additionally, these organizations and many other private sector, nonprofits 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.

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, and other awareness materials. We encourage you to use these kits in working with your Chief Information Officers and Chief Information Security Officers to spread the word about 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.

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

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
- Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center – <http://msisac.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

Continued support from elected officials for National Cyber Security Awareness Month is critical and helps to demonstrate that cyber security is a national priority. Our goal this year is to once again obtain proclamations from each governor and as many local government officials as possible.

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 ensure that all Americans enjoy a safe and secure experience online.

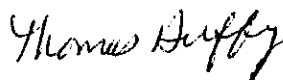
If there are any questions, you may feel free to have your staff contact Thomas Duffy, Chair of the MS-ISAC, at (518) 266-3460.

Thank you.



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

Sincerely,



Thomas F. Duffy
Chair
Multi-State Information Sharing
and Analysis Center



Michael Kaiser
Executive Director
National Cyber Security Alliance

Stu Davis
Chief Information Officer, State of Ohio
President, National Association of
State Chief Information Officers

Enclosures

cc: Marcos Vieyra, MS-ISAC Principal Member for the State of 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.TM 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, as well as academic institutions working together to increase the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security'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, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13691, Promoting Private Sector Cybersecurity Information Sharing, to encourage and promote sharing of cybersecurity threat information within the private sector and between the private sector and government through the development of Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations; 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 Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (www.msisac.org), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (www.nascio.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/Commonwealth of _____ is officially supporting National Cyber Security Awareness Month and the National Public Awareness Campaign, Stop.Think.Connect.