



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

H.R. _____, the “Department of Homeland Security Rotational Cybersecurity Program Act of 2019”

As Introduced by Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA)

Original Cosponsors: Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) and Rep. J. Luis Correa (D-CA)

As cyber threats continue to evolve and threaten critical sectors of the U.S. economy, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has struggled to develop and maintain the cybersecurity workforce necessary to meet its cybersecurity mission. The 2018 establishment of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) represented a step forward in building DHS’s cybersecurity capabilities and expertise. In order for CISA to fulfill its mission, however, it will need to collaborate with other DHS components to leverage existing cybersecurity expertise.

As the only institution of higher education operating within the Department, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) could be a resource for CISA as it seeks to on-board cybersecurity talent. Likewise, the USCGA’s cybersecurity training program could benefit from the expertise of CISA employees, as well as from employees of DHS’s Science and Technology Directorate and institutions that have been designated by DHS as a Center of Excellence for Cyber Defense. This bill would authorize cross-component collaboration and create new opportunities for academic and professional enrichment for USCGA graduates, faculty, and cybersecurity personnel within the Department.

THE DHS ROTATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM ACT OF 2019 authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to create a new rotational program for U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduates and faculty with expertise in cybersecurity to be detailed to CISA and the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate. The bill authorizes CISA and S&T employees to be detailed to the Coast Guard Academy as faculty, as well as employees of institutions that have been designated by the Department as a Center of Excellence for Cyber Defense or equivalent. The goals of this exchange program are to enhance CISA and the Coast Guard’s cybersecurity capacity building efforts and create new opportunities for academic and professional enrichment.