



Public Safety and Security Committee

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Testimony

By

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Chairman Larson, Chairman Dargan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Zupkus, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Kazem Kazerounian and I am the Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Connecticut. **I urge all committee members to support House Bill 6317, *An Act Establishing Public-Private Partnerships to Provide Internet Security Training and Exercises*.**

According to the FBI, in Connecticut state officials received more than 400 reports of security breaches in 2013, compromising information of more than half a million residents. These attacks pose serious risks to our infrastructure, utilities, businesses, and consumers. Recent cyberattacks on businesses such as Target, Home Depot and Anthem point to the need for strong cyber defenses and public-private collaborations. Connecticut has much at stake. It is home to vital industries – medicine, defense, communication, and insurance, among others – for which data security and privacy are of utmost importance. UConn’s School of Engineering has addressed this urgency with several major initiatives in the last three years that contribute significantly to the fight against threats to cybersecurity. The founding of the UConn Tech Park, made possible by the General Assembly, played a significant role in allowing these initiatives to happen.

In 2012, the School established the Center for Hardware Assurance, Security and Engineering (CHASE) to bring together commercial, academic and government expertise to enhance the nation’s hardware assurance and security. CHASE is developing more effective counterfeit detection at a lower cost. We are improving hardware security and developing a system to continuously monitor counterfeiting trends, test techniques, and security attacks. The U.S. Department of Defense,

National Science Foundation, and industry leaders such as Honeywell, Samsung, and CISCO are among CHASE's as sponsors.

In 2013, UConn forged a partnership with Comcast, the nation's largest cable and Internet provider, to create the Center of Excellence for Security Innovation (CSI), a cybersecurity research program that develops protections against Internet attacks and information breaches. Uniting the expertise of UConn's researchers with Comcast's leadership in Internet systems security has made the Center a national authority on hardware, software and network security. They are developing robust detection systems to shield Internet broadband systems from malicious attacks, unauthorized access, and counterfeit products. It is a textbook example of how academic-industry partnerships can advance knowledge and create a new generation of highly-skilled workers, and it can serve as a model for others in the cybersecurity field.

In addition to the outstanding research from CHASE and CSI, we have held a number of public informational forums on cybersecurity, featuring such speakers as Rear Admiral David Simpson, Chief of FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau; and Cheri Caddy, director of cybersecurity policy integration and outreach at the White House. We also held the very successful CyberSEED conference, a three-day event featuring expert talks and a hacking competition with teams from 43 universities. Such efforts have led the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to designate UConn as an NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense.

It is crucial that we bring together academia, industry and government to advance the field of cybersecurity. Public-private partnerships are prerequisite in any meaningful initiative toward a more secure digital world and UConn's School of Engineering looks forward to continuing to build these such partnerships to protect our State and residents. This bill would be a very positive step towards making a valuable contribution to the nation's security and economy. **Please support HB 6317.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of the University of Connecticut.