Written Testimony of: State Senator Tony Hwang, 28th District  
To: The Connecticut General Assembly’s Public Safety & Security Committee  
In Support of: SB 709 - AN ACT CREATING A DIVISION OF CYBER SECURITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Co-Chairs Bradley & Verrengia, Vice-Chairs Osten and Paolillo, Ranking Member Sredzinski, and my fellow Members of the Public Safety & Security Committee:

As a committee member I cannot testify in person, and will instead submit written testimony and reiterate my support of this important bill/concept that will advance the safety & security of our online cyber/internet activity across 1) government/homeland security, 2) corporate/academic and 3) personal/consumer sectors, helping Connecticut residents take control of their cyberspace interactions and creating proactive leadership in this critical ecosystem.

Corporate and government cyber security breaches, personal data security and user privacy have been constant news headlines. Just last month, Apple iPhone and Mac users were shocked to hear that a glitch in the device’s FaceTime app allows anyone calling to use the recipient’s phone to eavesdrop. The glitch allows anyone to place a FaceTime call to any number, and even without the recipient accepting the call, the caller could gain access to the recipient’s microphone and even a live feed of the recipient’s front-facing camera.

This is yet another example of concerning breaches of privacy, just one of the many high- and low-profile security breaches in recent years, which highlights the need for government and private sector to coordinate and cooperate to ensure individual user privacy as well as the security of government and corporate entities.

I hope that SB 709 with the expert testimony and insight during this public hearing will help the General Assembly and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to create a deputy commissioner role that will be entirely dedicated to a comprehensive and collaborative approach to cybersecurity. This bill will enhance and broaden the scope of our current Chief Cybersecurity Risk Officer beyond the Department of Administrative Services which focuses on governmental and homeland security. This bill stipulates that the position would have the responsibility to develop policies, suggestions, and resources that will address the needs of (1) National and State Homeland Security including security of utilities and infrastructure, (2) Corporate Cybersecurity to protect trade secrets and clients’ data privacy, and (3) protection for individual consumer’s personal data and application security.
It is time that our state has a dedicated group of people that deals with every level of cybersecurity in our state. We know that the pervasiveness of cyberspace and the World Wide Web has created opportunities for criminal and possible terror tactics to operate within it.

Our personal and business dependency on unruly digital and cyber technology pose a real threat to the security of our state and the safety of Connecticut residents. Government institutions, major corporations and individuals have suffered from hacking, and I believe the creation of this position within DESPP is a necessary step towards confronting the problems we are facing now and will continue to face in the future.

I envision this senior cybersecurity position and their staff to have the vision and responsibility to consult with and advise the Governor, the Legislature, state agencies, and private companies in the state to develop and implement a more integrated approach to protecting our cyber space, in addition to creating very clear recommendations and accessible resources for individuals. It should be in everyone’s interest to protect our own and each other’s information, data, finances, etc. and the person who fills this position would have the expertise and the mandate to ensure we are all on the same page in this pursuit.