



**CENTER FOR
INTERNET SECURITY**



July 2013

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Office of the Governor, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

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 helping raise awareness about the importance of securing cyberspace.

We respectfully request that you join your fellow elected officials in adopting a resolution or proclamation declaring October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month in your city. This year marks the 10th Annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month and we are pleased that, for the past four years, governors from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, along with local government officials have signed proclamations or letters of support declaring October as 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 infrastructures 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. MS-ISAC is a state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) government-focused cyber security entity that has significantly enhanced cyber threat prevention, protection and response and recovery throughout the SLTT governments of our Nation. 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 educational institutions. These organizations endeavor throughout the year to educate individuals and associations 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 national STOP.THINK.CONNECT.™ Campaign -- currently in its third year -- the first-ever coordinated message to raise awareness about cyber security among all digital citizens, helping them to stay safer and more secure online.

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Continuing support from elected officials is critical and demonstrates the significant interest in cyber security as a public need. Last year, 15 mayors throughout the country issued proclamations or letters of support declaring October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. 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 entity's MS-ISAC Principal Representative, who is 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 usable ways. The Toolkits include calendars, posters, guides, a Cyber Pledge and other awareness materials. We encourage you to use these kits to spread the word on the importance of sound cyber security practices. You may also want to consider branding these tools by placing your entity'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
- Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center – www.MSISAC.org
- National Association of State Chief Information Officers – www.nascio.org
- National Cyber Security Alliance – www.StaySafeOnline.org
- STOP.THINK.CONNECT. National Campaign – www.stopthinkconnect.org or 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 safe Internet experience for all Americans.

If there are any questions, you may feel free to have your staff contact William F. Pelgrin, chair of the MS-ISAC at (518) 880-0686.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



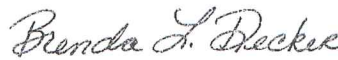
Roberta Stempfley
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Cybersecurity and Communications
National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



William Pelgrin
Chair
Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center



Michael Kaiser
Executive Director
National Cyber Security Alliance



Brenda Decker
President
National Association of State Chief Information Officers

Enclosures

cc: Tim Guerriero, MS-ISAC Principal Member for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE/Territory of _____
Office of the Governor
State Capitol

WHEREAS, we recognize the vital role that technology has in our daily lives and in the future of our Nation, whereby today many citizens, schools, libraries, businesses and other organizations use the Internet for a variety of tasks, including keeping in contact with family and friends, managing personal finances, performing research, enhancing education and conducting business; 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 use of the Internet at the primary and secondary school levels in <INSERT THE NAME OF THE STATE> enhances the education of youth by providing them access to online educational and research materials; and at institutions of higher education, the use of information technology is integral to teaching and learning, research, outreach and service; and

WHEREAS, Internet users and our information infrastructure face an increasing threat of malicious cyber attack, significant financial and personal privacy losses due to identity theft and fraud; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has established the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications and devoted resources within it solely to support the strengthening and securing of the country's cyber infrastructure at the state, local, tribal and territorial levels; and

WHEREAS, the Stop.Think.Connect.™ Campaign (www.stopthinkconnect.org or www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect) is a national effort coordinated by a coalition of private companies, nonprofits and government organizations to raise awareness about cyber security among all digital citizens, helping them to stay safer and more secure online; and

WHEREAS, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a division of the nonprofit Center for Internet Security, provides a collaborative mechanism to help state, local, tribal and territorial governments enhance cyber security; and <INSERT YOUR STATE/TERRITORY CYBER PROGRAM/OFFICE NAME> provides a comprehensive approach to help enhance the security of this <INSERT THE NAME OF THE STATE/ TERRITORY>; and

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

WHEREAS, 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/ TERRITORY CYBER SECURITY AGENCY URL> and Stop.Think.Connect. (www.stopthinkconnect.org or www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect) 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/Territory of _____, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2013 as:

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

in the State/Territory of _____ .