

April 11, 2013

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mary Landrieu  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand, Senator Vitter, Senator Coons, Senator Blunt, Senator Landrieu, Senator Leahy, Senator Warner and Senator Murray:

The nation's governors appreciate your work to support the National Guard and thank you for introducing the *Cyber Warrior Act of 2013 (S.658)*. This legislation represents an important step forward in strengthening our nation's cybersecurity capabilities and leveraging the National Guard to fulfill the critical need for highly skilled personnel.

The National Guard serves as a unique resource in the nation's defense by supporting both federal and state governments in protecting our citizens at home and abroad. Across the country, National Guard units have begun developing cybersecurity capabilities that could be utilized to conduct vulnerability assessments, test information technology systems, enhance cyber resiliency and respond to cyber incidents when they occur.

The *Cyber Warrior Act of 2013* recognizes the National Guard's ability to attract and retain individuals with critical information technology skills necessary to meet dynamic cybersecurity threats facing the nation. Governors agree with the legislation's objectives of further clarifying and strengthening the role of the National Guard within the Department of Defense (DoD) and building a coordinated cybersecurity response capability that could be utilized under state or federal authorities. Governors are actively engaged through the Council of Governors with DoD and the Department of Homeland Security in exploring these and other opportunities to cost-effectively fill a critical need for highly trained cybersecurity personnel.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to further these efforts.

Sincerely,

Governor Martin O'Malley  
Chair, Health & Homeland Security Committee  
Co-Chair, Council of Governors

Governor Brian Sandoval  
Vice Chair  
Health & Homeland Security Committee

Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors