

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Cyber security is one of the most pressing issues that our nation is being forced to confront. These threats are not exclusive to the government or the private sector. Technology has continued to blur the lines between networks and functions that are solely the realm of one or the other. A foreign nation, hostile individual, or group could achieve a devastating attack against our nation by targeting the networks of banks, utility providers, or government agencies. Additionally, there are many classified documents that detail some of our most cutting edge defense platforms that are held on the servers of the private companies who design and build them.

I supported HR 3523, the Cyber Information Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), because I believe it addresses a unique challenge that faces our nation today. This bill would allow the government and private companies to communicate more freely about cyber security threats. This information sharing would be voluntary and designed to aid in the defeat of new cyber threats through new technologies and best practices. It is an update to the National Security Act of 1947 that brings this law in line with the threats we face in a 21st Century world. **It does not require any private entity to submit any new information to the government, nor does it provide the government any personal information that is held by private networks.**

The information shared would be used only to protect networks from outside attacks, not mined for personal information or to give private companies any competitive advantage in the market place.

This legislation will help private sector job creators defend themselves from attacks from countries like China who wish to steal their intellectual property rights. It will do so by allowing the government to provide classified intelligence information needed to protect their networks and their customers' privacy. This bill would keep the federal governments' hands off of the Internet and would not allow the government to stop access to particular websites, or to censor or require private companies to remove content.

The fear that some have spread about unlimited authority granted under this bill is unfounded. Before passage in the House of Representatives, several amendments were adopted to address the privacy concerns that were widely reported as being contained in the bill. With these amendments the privacy protections already inherent in the bill were greatly strengthened. This bill does not contain any new federal spending or impose any additional federal regulation or unfunded mandates on the private sector.

I invite you to review the bill itself along with the wide range of supporting letters that it has

received from industry representatives, professional associations, and security groups:

<http://intelligence.house.gov/bill/cyber-intelligence-sharing-and-protection-act-2011>

As a Marine Corps combat veteran and member of the House Armed Service Committee, I closely follow the cyber security issues that are handled through the Department of Defense. I will continue to ensure that our nation remains prepared to defend itself from attacks in both the physical and cyber domains.

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