

INSA Cyber Security Council Meets with HSGAC Staff on Cyber Security Bill

On June 3, 2010, members of the INSA Cyber Security Council met with the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs staff to review and comment on draft legislation entitled, “*Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act of 2010*.” In addition to codifying a Director of Cyber Security responsive to the White House, this legislation would consolidate cyber security responsibilities within the Department of Homeland Security. Placing cyber issues under the umbrella of DHS aims to create critical infrastructure security standards and provide a center for private sector collaboration on collective security issues. INSA’s President, Ellen McCarthy remarked that “INSA’s Cyber Security Council appreciated the opportunity to review and comment on this bill and is encouraged that the White House and Congress continues to work closely with the private sector to ensure enhanced security of the nation’s critical infrastructure.”

McCarthy commented, “The Cyber Security Council has been closely and actively studying the problems surrounding national cyber security for the past two years, to include supporting the White House 60-Day Review of Cyber Security. In their latest publication, [Addressing Cyber Security through Public - Private Partnership](#), INSA’s Cyber Security Council calls for clear ownership of the problem and the creation of a central, responsible party within government with whom the private sector can interact and consult on security issues. We believe this legislation can and will create such a center and that it is a vital step forward in the effort to secure cyberspace and preserve American power and security.” The bill, which has been reviewed widely by representative organizations from the telecommunications sector, the Defense Industrial Base, the Information Technology sector, and other interested parties, is expected to be introduced in the coming weeks via the Senate HSGAC. INSA has collaborated with the executive and legislative branches in this matter and will continue to emphasize the importance of creating a strong public-private partnership that can provide meaningful recommendations to address this national and economic security threat.

In addition to this consultative project, INSA has reorganized its cyber security council with the addition of three subcommittees focusing on the education of interested parties, industry best practices or standards, and analysis of the business case for greater cyber security measures. INSA believes this is a great opportunity to not only engage new facets of the cyber security issue, but also to interact with existing members and open more opportunities for direct participation with INSA. Members interested in participating in these subcommittees should contact INSA’s Michael Karpovich at mkarpovich@insaonline.org.