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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0536

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt

As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I urge you to continue to provide strong support for the CyberCorps®: Scholarship for Service program within the Directorate for Education & Human Resources at the National Science Foundation (NSF) by funding it at \$75 million.

CyberCorps® is an essential component of NSF's commitment to building a Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace and is an important part of strengthening the federal workforce to address the many cybersecurity challenges we face.

As its name suggests, CyberCorps® provides scholarships for students interested in cybersecurity-related fields in exchange for a commitment to government service. In particular, the program consists of two phases. In the first, undergraduate and graduate students are given a tuition scholarship and a stipend to study at a NSA/DHS-certified center for academic excellence in cybersecurity. These students are afforded the opportunity to intern with federal government departments and agencies during their summer breaks. In the second phase, which begins following graduation, scholarship recipients serve in public service at the local, state, or federal level for a period equal to the length of their scholarship. Since 2002, CyberCorps® has provided funding for nearly 3,000 students, who upon graduation have been placed with more than government entities.

In addition to workforce development, CyberCorps® invests in capacity building at educational institutions around the country. This includes pedagogical research and development of curricula, assessments, and programs in cybersecurity at universities as well as efforts to expand cybersecurity classes at the elementary and secondary levels. CyberCorps® has particularly focused on capacity building for underserved populations, with programs geared specifically for underrepresented minorities, first-generation college students, and women. Since FY2015, that initiative has led to the designation of community colleges as centers for academic excellence in

two-year information assurance education, which has further grown the pool of potential students.

Improving cybersecurity is an imperative: we face a multitude of threats daily which imperil our national and economic security. Fundamental to protecting our networks is solving the cybersecurity talent shortage that plagues industry, academia, and, particularly, government. CyberCorps® addresses the short-term need while building long-term capacity, and its alumni represent a valuable national resource that may be usable in emergencies. I urge you to support this program at a funding level of \$75 million, and I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raul Ruiz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress