



September 22, 2022

Representative Lisa McClain

218 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC. 20515

Rep. Yvette D. Clarke

2058 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Rep. McClain and Rep. Clarke:

I am writing on behalf of Rebuilding America's Middle Class to thank you for introducing the National Community College Cybersecurity Challenge Act (NCCCCA). This legislation will provide vital to address our nation's critical shortage of cybersecurity professionals. The NCCCCA will provide new opportunities for students, particularly those from underrepresented populations, to gain the skills needed to pursue a high-wage, upwardly mobile career in cybersecurity.

RAMC is a coalition of State and individual community college systems from across the country, representing over 120 colleges and 1.5 million students. We serve 45 percent of all first-time freshmen, 40 percent of our students are the first in their family to attend college, and a significant proportion of our nation's minority undergraduates attend community colleges, including 42 percent of all African American undergraduates, nearly half of all Hispanic undergraduates, and 56 percent of Native American undergraduates. Community colleges have historically existed to make higher education accessible for everyone and match our employers' need for a large, diverse workforce. We know the importance of preparing more Americans to enter the workforce with the skills they need to compete for in-demand jobs.

This legislation will help support efforts of States, community colleges and the private sector to address our nation's critical shortage of cybersecurity professionals. The NCCCCA will also provide new opportunities for students, particularly those from underrepresented populations, to gain the skills needed to pursue a high-wage, upwardly mobile career in cybersecurity.

The legislation will help support many of the challenges facing community colleges in building and sustaining cybersecurity degree programs. This includes promoting strategies to recruit and retain

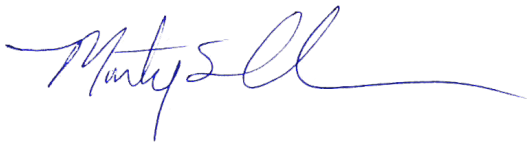
qualified faculty, providing tuition and wrap-around services for students pursuing such degrees. Also important, the NCCCCA promotes engagement with the private sector to support increased collaboration with community colleges to ensure courses remain up-to-date and relevant and to create work experience opportunities for students in these programs - which we know is a critical part of any successful program.

Although more and more community colleges across the nation have created new programs around cybersecurity, these grants, along with the coordinated support and focus of States and employers, will serve as a major catalyst for expanding these efforts.

Increasing cyberattacks are not unique to businesses with more and more community colleges facing a daily fight against these attacks. This means that we know firsthand the need and challenges of building up the workforce necessary to fend off these attacks.

Again, we thank you for introducing this legislation and for working to address the critical need for an expanded cybersecurity workforce. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the coming months ahead in pushing for its enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monty Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monty Sullivan
Board Chair, Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC)
President, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS)