

I am here today to respectfully request this committee take action on two important issues: contracting reform and cyber security.

The Small Business Committee recently marked up the Defending America's Small Contractors Act, which seeks to assist small businesses in competing for federal contracts.

I want to speak briefly in support of Section 302 of this bill.

This provision would create a voluntary pilot program at the SBA that would provide first tier subcontracting small businesses with past performance ratings based on their previously completed work.

One challenge facing many small businesses competing for larger federal contracting opportunities is that it is difficult for them to gain recognition for past work as first-tier subcontractors. This prevents them from building

the track record they need to compete for larger prime contracts.

As a contractor myself and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, I am confident that these changes will lead to more competition in the marketplace.

This Committee has taken a lead on contracting and acquisition reform. I respectfully urge you to include Section 302 in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. It is a sensible change that creates more opportunity for small business contractors and brings greater competition to the marketplace.

The second issue I want to bring to the Committee's attention is important to my district.

I have the privilege of representing the Air Force Research Lab in Rome, NY, which is home to some of the most advanced cyber research in the world.

Our country faces unprecedented challenges in cyber space, which demand robust solutions that tap into the Total Force of our country's military, including Guard and Reserve personnel.

At this Committee's urging, the Army recently conducted an analysis of its cyber capabilities. It found that the Guard is well placed to contribute to defensive cyber operations but it has yet to effectively bring them into the fold.

While the National Guard Bureau has named 10 Army Cyber Protection Teams to be based in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management response regions, the Army has not allocated any funds to sustain them. Neither has it provided a long-term plan for integrating them into the Cyber Mission Force.

No approach to securing the cyber domain is complete unless it utilizes the broad range of skills and assets possessed by Guard personnel.

Anyone familiar with the Guard's capabilities knows how well suited its citizen-soldiers are to

take on an expanded cyber mission. The men and women of the Guard develop unique expertise in their private sector careers and can be on the ground ready to assist at a moment's notice.

I respectfully request that the Members of this Committee work with the Army to provide a long-term strategic plan for integrating Army Guard personnel into the Cyber Mission Force for Fiscal Year 2017.