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Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Mr. Chairman, I am requesting an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to require the Pentagon to propose a legal definition of cyber warfare.

No matter how much technology has changed, from the days of ancient Greek and Roman warfare till now, we have thought of war as involving weapons and the use of physical force. In modern times, we have a large body of both US and international law that defines and governs war.

But for the past several decades we've faced a threat that still does not have a legal definition: cyber warfare. Cyber war does not fit within the traditional confines of how we conceive of warfare. While we have a Cyber Command that is tasked with protecting US Cyberspace, we do not have a legal definition detailing under what circumstances a cyber-attack is considered an act of war. That is why I am requesting an amendment that will require the Pentagon form a working group to propose a legal definition, report back to Congress, and make the findings known to the public.

We currently do not know when a cyber-attack is an act of war. If North Korea were to bomb a hospital, that would undoubtedly be considered an act of war under both US and international legal standards. But if North Korea were to launch a cyber-attack on a hospital and was able to shut it down or alter patient records...there is nothing that defines this as an act of war.

Cyber hacking is rampant; the White House just released a report that cyber-crime cost the US economy an estimated 57 to 106 billion dollars in 2016 alone. If an enemy causes between 57 and 106 billion dollars' worth of damage from bombing US soil, rest assured, we would be at war right now. North Korea is one of the biggest perpetrators of cyber hacking; China, Iran, and Russia are also well-known for engaging in this practice. Critical infrastructure, sensitive technological secrets, and Americans' private information are all at risk.

Cyber attacks continue to develop, but they are of a new, emerging technology. For the sake of our national security, we are long past due a legal definition that will allow us to confront the enemy. By not legally defining cyber warfare, we let our enemies know that this is an issue we are not ready to take seriously. It is time to change that. By creating a definition of when cyber-attacks are an act of war, we will create a strong deterrent and stop other nation states from engaging in this practice against the United States.

My amendment will start the process of the US creating a legal framework for when an cyber-attack is an act of war. I sincerely and respectfully request that the Committee consider my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I also testify before you today seeking equity for the constituents I represent on Staten Island.

As you may know, the Post-9/11 GI Bill grants housing assistance to veterans attending college through the military's "Basic Allowance for Housing" program. This assistance is based on the rental and utility costs of the Military Housing Area in which these veterans live. Currently, New York City is separated into two zones: one for Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx; and another for Staten Island.

Although census data shows Staten Island's median gross rent is within \$50 of Brooklyn's, and \$100 higher than the Bronx, the formula still grants Bronx students up to \$1,335 more than Staten Island students.

It is alarming that these hardworking military families in my hometown have near-identical cost-of-living expenses, yet they do not receive the same allowance as BAH recipients who attend schools in the other four boroughs. The result is that Staten Island's three institutions of higher learning cannot recruit student-veterans to their campuses because of the thousands upon thousands of dollars in reduced assistance it would mean for the student.

I firmly believe that the most equitable and common-sense solution is to have only one Military Housing Area for all of New York City. My amendment would require DOD to merge Staten Island's Military Housing Area with the rest of New York City to create one Military Housing Area for all of New York City.

Again, thank you very much for this opportunity to testify. I sincerely and respectfully request that the Committee consider my amendment.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.