

Rep. Kathleen Rice
Talking Points – Committee on Modernization

INTRO

- Thank you, Chair Kilmer and Vice Chair Timmons, for holding this important hearing.
- Like you, I think it's crucial that we continue to look for ways to strengthen and improve the rules that govern this legislative body.
- I'm grateful for the opportunity to testify here today to share some of my own ideas.
- I'm going to make my remarks quick and take this opportunity to discuss an issue that is very important to me and needs to become more important to Congress as whole – cybersecurity.

CYBERSECURITY TRAINING BILL

- Last Congress, I introduced House Resolution 355, a bipartisan resolution that would require all Members of the House to undergo annual cyber- and information security training within 30 days of being sworn in. The bill would also require all Members to complete an annual training by January 31st of each year.
- I was thrilled that my resolution was included in this Committee's recommendations to Congress and proud to see it pass the House as part of the Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution.

- While CAO was beginning to implement this resolution last year, like many things, it was put on the backburner so we could address the COVID-19 pandemic.
- That is why I am here today, to continue to advocate for cybersecurity training for our Members. Now, more than ever, we are facing the constant and unprecedented threat of cyberattacks on our government, political organizations and private-sector entities, and Members of Congress have an obligation to help protect the systems we use.
- As a member of the Energy and Commerce and Homeland Security Committees, I have and will continue to spend considerable time working to strengthening our government's cybersecurity infrastructure.
- Whether it's our election systems, our power grids or our government offices, we need to make cybersecurity a part of our daily lives and we need to play an active role in supporting those efforts.
- Our employees and House officers are already required to take mandatory information security training each year, and I believe Members should be held to the exact same standards.
- After all, Members spend a considerable amount of time using the very technology that foreign adversaries are trying to infiltrate every day. There's no reason why we shouldn't bear the same responsibility for combatting these threats as everyone else in our offices.
- As we continue to beef up our cybersecurity infrastructure in different areas of government, we need to remember that Members

of Congress and our offices remain prime targets for malign foreign actors.

- Implementing cybersecurity training is a critical step toward strengthening our cybersecurity capabilities here on Capitol Hill and ensuring that all Members are equipped with tools and knowledge to play an active role in countering cybersecurity threats.
- This is about making Congress a more secure place to work and it's about leading by example.
- I urge this committee to consider this provision in any legislative agenda that it develops this Congress and thank you again for your past support of cyber training for Members.
- Thank you.