

Rep. Kathleen Rice
Talking Points – Committee on Modernization

INTRO

- Thank you, Chairman Kilmer and Ranking Member Graves, 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 year I introduced House Resolution 585, a bipartisan bill 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.
- Today, 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 Homeland Security Committee, 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.
- My bill represents a critical step toward strengthening our cybersecurity capabilities here on Capitol Hill and ensuring that all Members are equipped the 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 bill in any legislative agenda that it ultimately develops.
- Thank you.