



November 2, 2015

Hon. Michael McCaul  
Chairman  
House Homeland Security Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Bennie Thompson  
Ranking Member  
House Homeland Security Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Thomas,

On behalf of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), we write to voice our support for H.R. 3869, the State and Local Cyber Protection Act of 2015 sponsored by Rep. Will Hurd (R-Texas).

NASCIO represents the state chief information officers and information technology executives and managers from the states, territories and D.C. State CIOs are leaders of state information technology policy and implementation and as such, continually look for opportunities to improve the operations, bring innovation and transform state government through technological solutions. Cybersecurity remains one of the biggest priorities for our nation's CIOs and we are pleased that Rep. Hurd has introduced H.R. 3869, which we believe will assist CIOs in bolstering their state's cybersecurity posture.

For several years, cybersecurity has been a top priority for the nation's CIOs; in 2014 and 2015, cybersecurity ranked number one in NASCIO's yearly priority survey. Data from our most recent state CIO survey and publication, [The Value Equation: Agility in Sourcing, Software and Services](#), indicate that the increasing sophistication of cyber threats is the most significant barrier facing the states (77%). Additionally, state CIOs report that the inadequate availability of security professionals (62%) is a barrier to securing the state from cyber intrusions. In making U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) cyber resources available upon request to state CIOs, H.R. 3869 could help States address the aforementioned gaps. We especially appreciate that H.R. 3869 makes DHS resources available *upon request* and does not mandate the utilization of federal resources for state partners.

Thank you for considering H.R. 3869 and we hope the House Homeland Security Committee will report this measure favorably out of committee. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact NASCIO Director of Government Affairs, Yejin Cooke at [ycooke@NASCIO.org](mailto:ycooke@NASCIO.org) or 202.624.8477.

Sincerely,

Doug Robinson  
Executive Director  
NASCIO