

#### 115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1609

To amend title 10, United States Code, to support meeting the increasing needs of the United States for a cybersecurity and information assurance workforce by reinvigorating and modifying the Information Assurance Scholarship Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 17, 2017

Mr. Langevin (for himself, Mr. Allen, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Ratcliffe, and Mr. Ted Lieu of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to support meeting the increasing needs of the United States for a cybersecurity and information assurance workforce by reinvigorating and modifying the Information Assurance Scholarship Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Department of Defense
- 5 Cyber Scholarship Program Act of 2017".

### SEC. 2. REINVIGORATING AND MODIFYING THE INFORMA-2 TION ASSURANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. 3 (a) Findings and Sense of Congress.— 4 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following 5 findings: 6 (A) Cyber threats to United States inter-7 ests posed by state and non-state actors are 8 growing as the United States becomes increas-9 ingly reliant on the Internet and cyberspace for 10 critical services. 11 (B) A well-trained workforce is essential to 12 meeting the increasing cybersecurity needs of 13 the United States. 14 (C) The Department of Defense Cyber 15 Strategy, issued in April 2015, cites building 16 the cyber workforce among its objectives for 17 achieving the essential strategic goal of building 18 and maintaining ready forces and capabilities to 19 conduct cyberspace operations. 20 (D) Specifically, the strategy stresses the 21 importance of improving civilian recruitment 22 and retention for fulfilling the cyber missions of 23 the Department of Defense. 24 (E) Many community colleges offer degrees 25 or industry-recognized credentials in cybersecu-

| 1  | rity and related fields that prepare students to  |
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| 2  | fill high demand cybersecurity jobs.              |
| 3  | (F) The Information Assurance Scholar-            |
| 4  | ship Program of the Department of Defense         |
| 5  | and the National Security Agency promotes re-     |
| 6  | cruitment, education, and retention of cyberse-   |
| 7  | curity professionals.                             |
| 8  | (G) Since 2001, the Information Assurance         |
| 9  | Scholarship Program has supported individuals     |
| 10 | pursuing cybersecurity education and training     |
| 11 | in exchange for government service.               |
| 12 | (H) Since 2013, budgetary considerations          |
| 13 | have resulted in reductions to funding for Infor- |
| 14 | mation Assurance Scholarship Program.             |
| 15 | (I) The efforts of the Department of De-          |
| 16 | fense to build a cybersecurity workforce capable  |
| 17 | of defending against and responding to cyber      |
| 18 | threats should include reinvigorating the Infor-  |
| 19 | mation Assurance Scholarship Program and          |
| 20 | supporting cybersecurity degree programs at       |
| 21 | United States educational institutions.           |
| 22 | (2) Sense of congress.—It is the sense of         |
| 23 | Congress that the Secretary of Defense should—    |
| 24 | (A) consider the Information Assurance            |
| 25 | Scholarship Program to be a critical cybersecu-   |

| 1  | rity effort of the Chief Information Officer of          |
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| 2  | the Department of Defense;                               |
| 3  | (B) continue to support programs at 2-                   |
| 4  | year institutions of higher education that help          |
| 5  | students develop skills necessary to support the         |
| 6  | cybersecurity missions of the United States;             |
| 7  | and  |
| 8  | (C) restore funding to the program to re-                |
| 9  | cruit and retain new scholarship recipients and          |
| 10 | build capacity at institutions of higher edu-            |
| 11 | cation.  |
| 12 | (b) Modification of Information Assurance                |
| 13 | Scholarship Program.—                                    |
| 14 | (1) Designation of Program.—Section                      |
| 15 | 2200a of title 10, United States Code, is amended        |
| 16 | by adding at the end the following new subsection:       |
| 17 | "(h) Designation of Program.—A program under             |
| 18 | which the Secretary provides financial assistance under  |
| 19 | subsection (a) of this section and grants under section  |
| 20 | 2200b of this title shall be known as the 'Department of |
| 21 | Defense Cyber Scholarship Program'.".                    |
| 22 | (2) Allocation of funding.—Subsection (f)                |
| 23 | of such section is amended—                              |
| 24 | (A) by inserting "(1)" before "Not less";                |
| 25 | and  |

| 1  | (B) by adding at the end the following new                    |
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| 2  | paragraph:  |
| 3  | "(2) Not less than five percent of the amount avail-          |
| 4  | able for financial assistance under this section for a fiscal |
| 5  | year shall be available for providing financial assistance    |
| 6  | for the pursuit of an associate degree.".                     |
| 7  | (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is                 |
| 8  | authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense     |
| 9  | to provide financial assistance under section 2200a of such   |
| 10 | title, as amended by subsection (b), and grants under sec-    |
| 11 | tion 2200b of such title, $$10,000,000$ for fiscal year 2018. |
| 12 | (d) Reinvigoration Plan Required.—Not later                   |
| 13 | than September 30, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall       |
| 14 | submit to the congressional defense committees (as de-        |
| 15 | fined in section 101(a) of such title) a plan for reinvigo-   |
| 16 | rating the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Pro-       |
| 17 | gram, as designated by section 2200a(h) of such title, as     |
| 18 | added by subsection (b)(1) of this section                    |

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