



October 21, 2019

The Honorable Gary Peters  
United States Senate  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Robin Vos**  
Assembly Speaker  
Wisconsin  
President, NCSL

**Martha R. Wigton**  
Director  
House Budget & Research  
Office  
Georgia  
Staff Chair, NCSL

**Tim Storey**  
Executive Director

Dear Senator Peters and Senator Portman:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures, we write to thank you for your leadership in introducing S. 1846, the "State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019." NCSL fully supports your efforts to engage states and localities in a coordinated approach to cybersecurity. We appreciate the opportunities this bill presents for state officials to learn from and engage with our federal counterparts on cyber risks, defensive measures, and threat indicators and we value the information sharing strategies that this bill promotes.

State policymakers take cybersecurity issues very seriously and are working to craft state requirements that will create secure state systems. In 2019, 43 states and Puerto Rico introduced or considered 300 bills or resolutions that dealt significantly with various aspects of cybersecurity. Of the 43 states and Puerto Rico, 31 states enacted cybersecurity-related [legislation](#) in 2019. Some of the key areas of legislative activity included requiring government agencies or businesses to implement training or specific types of security policies or practices, addressing the security of utilities and critical infrastructure including elections, addressing the security of connected devices, and providing funding for improved security measures.

States do face significant challenges in the cybersecurity space as this issue is broad, all-encompassing, and changes frequently due to the increased sophistication of hackers. It is only through increased collaboration and cooperation between local, state and federal governments that sound cybersecurity policies and best practices can be formulated and implemented. NCSL applauds the emphasis on these methods contained in S. 1846. NCSL welcomes the opportunity to work with Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to keep our systems safe. Please contact NCSL staff Susan Parnas Frederick ([susan.frederick@nctl.org](mailto:susan.frederick@nctl.org)) for additional information.

Sincerely,

Representative Eric Hutchings, Utah  
Co-Chair, NCSL Law, Criminal Justice &  
Public Safety Committee

Representative Roger Goodman, Washington  
Co-Chair, NCSL Law, Criminal Justice &  
Public Safety Committee