Opening Statement of Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
Joint Subcommittee Hearing on "Public-Private Solutions to Educating a Cyber Workforce"

We are facing a skills gap in this country, and the cybersecurity sector is not immune from its impact.

Major corporations and government entities are looking for highly-skilled professionals to fill important positions that ensure our country's public institutions, as well as private businesses, remain safe from the growing number of cyber-threats.

According to a report by the Congressional Research Service, the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security require over 4,000 personnel to handle the current cybersecurity threats that impact the government.

While this skills gap currently exists in the cybersecurity sector, conversations are being had between skills-based institutions of education and employers to better ensure that the skills students are learning in the classroom match the need for skilled employees in the cybersecurity filed.

This is encouraging news, and I hope the cybersecurity sector continues on this positive trend, and can be a model for other industries to prepare a skilled and equipped workforce of the future.

The progress is so encouraging that a study by the RAND Corporation has indicated that demand will likely be met over time due to an increased number of cybersecurity apprenticeship and education programs.

At the Education and Workforce Committee, we are looking for more ways to raise awareness across all industries for apprenticeship and other earn-and-learn opportunities. That is why today's hearing is particularly important, not just what it means for security, but what it means for future jobs.

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