

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7530

To direct the Attorney General to make grants to assist local educational agencies in developing and implementing plans to address cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

Mr. HARDER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to make grants to assist local educational agencies in developing and implementing plans to address cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities, 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 “Protecting Students  
5 from Cybercrimes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Educational institutions across the country  
2           are becoming increasingly vulnerable to cyber at-  
3           tacks with the switch to online instruction during  
4           the COVID–19 pandemic.

5           (2) Cyber attacks put sensitive and confidential  
6           information at risk of disclosure.

7           (3) Increased cyber attacks place sensitive stu-  
8           dent information, such as student academic achieve-  
9           ment records, grades, medical records, and other  
10          personal identifiable information at risk.

11          (4) School districts are not sufficiently equipped  
12          to prevent damaging cyber attacks. Increased fund-  
13          ing and guidance from the Federal Government are  
14          needed to adequately prepare for and defend against  
15          potential cyber attacks.

16          (5) Increased Federal funding and guidance will  
17          give school districts the ability to reduce their risk  
18          and exposure to cyber attacks.

19          (6) Increased Federal funding to school dis-  
20          tricts will enable school district residents to pursue  
21          formal education, training, and industry recognized  
22          certifications for careers in cybersecurity, which will  
23          aid in the prevention and mitigation of the effects of  
24          future attacks.

1           (7) Increased Federal funding and guidance will  
2           allow school districts, campuses, and institutions of  
3           higher education to share information and analysis  
4           to prevent future cyber attacks.

5 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL CYBERCRIME PROTECTION GRANT PRO-**  
6 **GRAM.**

7           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting  
8           through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investiga-  
9           tion (referred to in this section as the “FBI Director”),  
10          is authorized to make grants to any local educational  
11          agency (as such term is defined in section 8101 of the  
12          Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
13          U.S.C. 7801)) or group of local educational agencies to  
14          assist in preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and  
15          responding to cybercrimes.

16          (b) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

17                  (1) LIMITATIONS.—Any grant awarded under  
18                  this section shall supplement and not supplant local  
19                  educational agency or local funds, as applicable, and  
20                  may not be used—

21                          (A) to provide any Federal cost-sharing  
22                          contribution on behalf of a local educational  
23                          agency; or

24                          (B) for any recreational or social purpose.

1           (2) APPROVED ACTIVITIES FOR GRANTS.—A  
2 local educational agency that receives funds through  
3 this grant program shall use such funds for one or  
4 more of the following activities:

5           (A) Supporting or enhancing information  
6 sharing and analysis organizations.

7           (B) Implementing or coordinating systems  
8 and services that use cyber threat indicators (as  
9 such term is defined in section 102 of the Cy-  
10 bersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6  
11 U.S.C. 1501)) to address cybersecurity threats  
12 or vulnerabilities.

13           (C) Preventing, preparing for, protecting  
14 against, and responding to cybercrimes, includ-  
15 ing coordinating with—

16           (i) emergency management elements  
17 of the State in which the local educational  
18 agency is located, municipality, and local  
19 educational agency;

20           (ii) Federal Bureau of Investigation  
21 or Department of Homeland Security  
22 units, as appropriate;

23           (iii) entities associated with critical in-  
24 frastructure or key resources;

1 (iv) information sharing and analysis  
2 organizations;

3 (v) public safety answering points; or

4 (vi) nongovernmental organizations  
5 engaged in cybersecurity research as an in-  
6 formation analysis and sharing organiza-  
7 tion designated by the Federal Bureau of  
8 Investigation or the Department of Home-  
9 land Security.

10 (D) Establishing programs, such as schol-  
11 arships or apprenticeships, to provide financial  
12 assistance to students served by the local edu-  
13 cational agency who—

14 (i) pursue formal education, training,  
15 and industry-recognized certifications for  
16 careers in cybersecurity as identified by the  
17 National Initiative for Cybersecurity Edu-  
18 cation; and

19 (ii) commit to working for a local edu-  
20 cational agency for not less than 2 years.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
22 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
23 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

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