106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 285

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding Internet security and "cyberterrorism".

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2000

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. SNYDER, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. TALENT, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. EWING) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, 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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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding Internet security and "cyberterrorism".

Whereas computer networks and the Internet are becoming an integral part of our society—in 1992 there were 50 sites on the World Wide Web, there are now over 3.6 million sites;

Whereas computer networks and the Internet have become vital in the dissemination of information between individuals, governmental agencies, and academic institutions;

Whereas computer networks and the Internet are increasingly used for electronic commerce and have the potential to account for a significant share of the United States economy;

Whereas an estimated 1 to 2 million people in the United States used the Internet for some type of commercial transaction in 1995;

Whereas over 4 million people were using electronic commerce in mid-1997, according to the Department of Commerce;

Whereas this number had increased to 10 million users by the end of 1997, according to the Department of Commerce;

Whereas the Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce has estimated that United States retail electronic commerce sales for the fourth quarter of 1999 (October through December) totalled approximately $5.3 billion;

Whereas a study commissioned by the Department of Commerce estimates that electronic commerce in business-to-business transactions will increase from $131 billion in 1999 to $1.5 trillion by 2003;

Whereas computer networks, electronic mail, and the Internet are increasingly used to manage and operate critical infrastructures such as banking and finance, energy production and distribution, transportation, and national defense;

Whereas computer network and Internet security has become vital to ensure the delivery of goods and services;

Whereas young ''hackers'' are not the only security threat to computer networks and the Internet;

Whereas terrorists groups and criminal syndicates also possess the capability to undermine the security and integrity of computer networks and the Internet;

Whereas the number of nations—including many opposed to United States interests at home and abroad—incorporating ''Information Operations'' as part of their military capability and doctrine is growing;

Whereas the protection of the Nation's critical electronic infrastructures is not solely under the purview of the Government, but private industry also has some measure of responsibility;

Whereas the President's National Plan for Information Systems Protection would help to protect computer networks and the Internet from ''cyber attacks'';

Whereas it is important to fund entities designed to combat ''cyber attacks'', such as the National Infrastructure Protection Center of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office of the Department of Commerce, and other programs within the Department of Defense, the National Security Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency; and

Whereas the legal framework for the prosecution of ''cyberterrorists'' is not comprehensive and does not reflect the current capabilities for wrongdoing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) designates cyberterrorism as an emerging threat to the national security of the United States

which has the potentiality to cause great harm to the Nation's critical electronic infrastructure; and

(2) calls for—

(A) a partnership between the Federal Government and private industry in combatting the ''cyber menace'';

(B) a revised legal framework for the prosecution of ''hackers'' and ''cyberterrorists''; and

(C) a new interagency study to be conducted by the Departments of Commerce and Defense, the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to assess the threat posed by ''cyberterrorists''.

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