

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0911

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the University of South Florida's Cybersecurity Technology, Research, and Workforce Training Program in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of South Florida (USF), located at 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33620. The funding would be allocated towards acquiring and deploying cutting-edge cyber training tools and environments, analyzing cyber training outcomes to establish best practices, and prioritizing the facilitation of cybersecurity certificate training.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because a highly trained and skilled cybersecurity workforce is critical for our national security and maintaining a healthy economy. Since its launch in 2019, Cyber Florida at USF has successfully trained 252 transitioning professionals from 39 counties across the state, spanning rural, suburban and urban areas. 124 of these participants were transitioning veterans and first responders. With more than 30,000 cybersecurity job openings across the state of Florida and over 400,000 job openings across the country there is considerable demand and an imperative need for these professionals. Funding this program will enable hundreds of students to meet the critical, growing demand across our nation. Transitioning military veterans, first responders, and critical infrastructure employees who meet the qualifications for program admission, will receive first priority for scholarship funds. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 272 of Title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

DANIEL WEBSTER
11TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
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