

**Opening Statement of Chairman Thomas R. Carper**  
**Business Meeting**  
**June 25, 2014**

*As prepared for delivery:*

I'd like to thank my colleagues for joining Dr. Coburn and me today as we attempt to approve a very full and very important agenda. We have 14 bills and one nomination on our agenda today. Among the bills we'll be considering are two which further this committee's vitally important work on cyber security.

Last month, this committee reported out legislation intended to help the Department of Homeland Security to hire the kind of talented men and women it needs to fulfill the leadership role plays in helping secure government and private-sector networks.

Today, Dr. Coburn and I will be calling on our colleagues to support two more bipartisan bills. One would formally codify the entity within DHS that works with the private sector, Federal agencies, and state and local governments in addressing cyber threats and sharing best practices. The other would make clear the division of labor between OMB and DHS on cybersecurity. In doing so, our legislation would also free Federal agencies from some dated and burdensome paperwork requirements while putting into place a more efficient and effective process for monitoring and addressing threats to Federal networks in real time.

Even when these bills are sent to the full Senate – and I believe they will be today – our committee will still have some important cybersecurity work that needs to be done. For example, we need to further clarify the Department of Homeland Security's role in working with the private sector on cybersecurity matters. This includes specifying the “rules of the road” for DHS in interacting with private critical infrastructure owners on cybersecurity issues.

We also need to make technical changes to update the Homeland Security Act so that it's clear who in DHS is responsible for cybersecurity, and to continue to improve research and development on cybersecurity given the ever-growing and ever-evolving nature of this threat.

It is also important, as I intend to discuss later, that we codify a program known as EINSTEIN. This program is like a home security system for our Federal agencies that can identify and prevent cybersecurity intrusions and alert the proper authorities.

Before I turn to Dr. Coburn for any opening comments he would like to make, I'll also note briefly that we'll be considering two important “good government” bills that represent important bipartisan work between this committee and our House counterparts, and will also be discussing Shaun Donovan's nomination to serve as OMB Director, perhaps the most important position in the President's cabinet.

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