

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 25, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We enthusiastically encourage you to nominate Ms. Kemba Eneas Walden to be the next National Cyber Director. As Acting National Cyber Director, Ms. Walden oversaw the successful roll out of the National Cybersecurity Strategy (the Strategy), effectively communicating and evangelizing the White House's vision for improving cybersecurity across the Federal government and to the private sector. Moving forward, Ms. Walden's leadership will be critical in the successful implementation of the Strategy.

Ms. Walden has extensive experience leading cybersecurity efforts both inside and outside of government that uniquely position her to be an impactful National Cyber Director. Notably, Ms. Walden served as the lead attorney representative for the Department of Homeland Security to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a cybersecurity attorney for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and its legacy predecessor the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), and as the Assistant General Counsel in Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit.

At CISA and NPPD, Ms. Walden was responsible for leading efforts across the Agency's broad mission space, including cybersecurity, infrastructure security, and emergency communications. She deftly brokered agreements on policies ranging from data protection to risk mitigation, carefully balancing the disparate, and at times conflicting, interests of the Agency, Congress, and private sector stakeholders to chart a path forward toward security. Following Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections, Ms. Walden was instrumental in ramping up NPPD and CISA's election security efforts as the primary cybersecurity legal advisor to the Elections Task Force. At that time, State and local governments were skeptical of Federal election security activities. The combination of Ms. Walden's legal expertise and thoughtful negotiation skills helped mature the important relationship CISA enjoys with State and local election officials today.

Ms. Walden brought her election security expertise to Microsoft, where she advised on matters related to its Defending Democracy Program for the 2020 election cycle, which, among other things, sought to protect campaigns from hacking. Ms. Walden also launched and led the Digital Crime Unit's Ransomware Program and served as a Working Group Co-Chair of the White House Ransomware Task Force. Her recent experience in the private sector gives Ms. Walden a fresh perspective on how the Federal government can most strategically collaborate with the private sector, which is a critical skillset for the National Cyber Director.

Ms. Walden has a proven track record of leadership, and her contributions to cybersecurity are well-documented. Already, she has proven herself to be an effective champion of the White House’s cybersecurity agenda. After Ms. Walden testified about the Strategy at a recent Congressional hearing, the Republican Subcommittee Chair observed that her testimony was “knowledgeable and was fantastic,” and affirmed that the Subcommittee was “here to assist and help” on shared cybersecurity goals.¹ Another Republican thanked Ms. Walden for her “invaluable insight.”² Ms. Walden’s ability to work across political divides will be essential to advancing the White House’s ambitious cybersecurity agenda and her nomination would add a much-needed diverse voice to cybersecurity leadership in the Administration.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,




Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



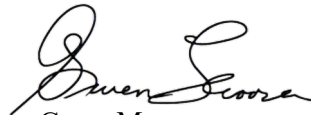
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress




Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Emmanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

¹ Unpacking the White House National Cybersecurity Strategy: Hearing before the Subcomm. on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, (Mar. 24, 2023) (Statement of Chairwoman Nancy Macy).

² *Id.* (Statement of Rep. Nick Langworthy).



Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



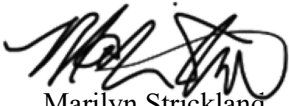
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



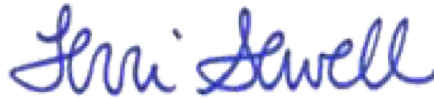
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



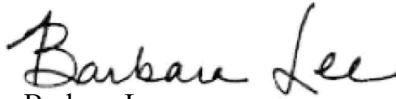
Hank C. Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



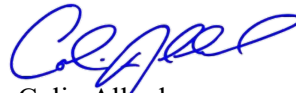
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



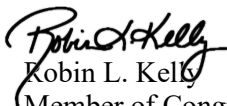
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Colin Allred
Member of Congress



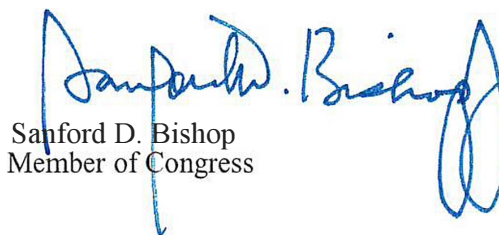
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



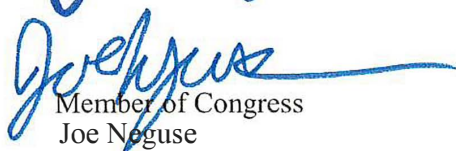
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop
Member of Congress



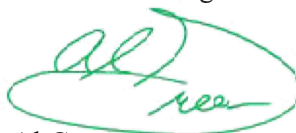
Member of Congress
Joe Neguse



Shontel Brown
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



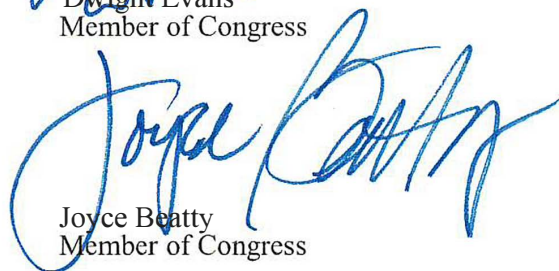
Al Green
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress