The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Proclamation

Whereas, Massachusetts recognizes that it plays a vital role in identifying, protecting its citizens from, and responding to cybersecurity threats that may have significant impact to our individual and collective safety and privacy; and

Whereas, Monitoring your accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating unique passwords and changing them regularly, installing antivirus programs and firewalls, and using mobile devices and other internet-connected devices safely, are ways people and organizations can protect themselves from phishing, viruses, ransomware, other types of malware, financial loss, and loss of sensitive data; and

Whereas, In a nation-leading effort to collaboratively enhance the Commonwealth's ability to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and recover from significant cybersecurity threats, the multiagency Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team (MA-CIRT) routinely reviews cybersecurity threat information and vulnerabilities to make informed recommendations, establish appropriate policies, and manage risk by establishing a formal incident response process and running several tabletop exercises to validate that process; and

Whereas, The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has made critical investments to enhance the cybersecurity infrastructure of the Commonwealth, protect our digital assets, and sustain operational resilience through the operation of the 24/7 Commonwealth Security Operations Center; promotion of industry best practices for good 'cyber hygiene' for Executive Branch employees through simulated phishing exercises and annual security awareness training; a municipal cybersecurity awareness training grant and cyber health checks offered at no-cost for municipalities through the Office of Municipal and School Technology; and leading a vulnerability lifecycle program that identifies and mitigates vulnerabilities in Commonwealth IT infrastructure, applications, systems and services; and

Whereas, The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and its agencies engage in a whole-of-government approach to protect the Commonwealth's critical infrastructure and citizens by facilitating vital information-sharing, investigating cybercrime, developing interagency response plans, preparing for cyber disasters, enhancing the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Incident Response Team (MA-CIRT), and implementing best practices to ensure a more cyber resilient Commonwealth; and

Whereas, The MassCyberCenter is partnering with leaders in Massachusetts to host and promote cybersecurity-focused events to showcase the cybersecurity ecosystem, to celebrate the progress of a $19 million statewide program establishing Cyber Ranges and Security Operations Centers across the Commonwealth, and to promote the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Month 2024 theme of "Secure Our Data. Secure Our Future." which highlights the critical importance of safeguarding digital information to protect ourselves and our communities; and

Whereas, The Healey-Driscoll Administration, through the Office of Grants and Research, has secured federal funding through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program to provide over $15.8 million in vital resources to support the Commonwealth and its 351 cities and towns in managing and reducing systemic cyber risks, enhancing the security of critical infrastructure, and improving the resilience of the services provided to their respective communities, of which nearly $7 million has already been awarded to local governments and state agencies; and

Whereas, The Federal Government of the United States of America, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers and the National Cyber Security Alliance recognize October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month; and that in recognition of this, the 21st year of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, all residents are encouraged to reduce online risks by visiting these websites, using the resources and learning about cybersecurity so they can put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces, and businesses; and

Whereas, The Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Working Group is bringing together Federal, State, local and private-sector leaders to identify ways the Commonwealth's innovative technology ecosystem can support municipalities and critical institutions in their efforts to protect sensitive data, increase cybersecurity awareness, and respond to emerging threats,

Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2024, to be,

MASSACHUSETTS CYBERSECURITY MONTH

And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take Cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KIMBERLY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts