

# U.S. Rep. Gallagher: Cyberspace Solarium Commission finalizes legislative priorities

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine) and Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), co-chairs of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission (CSC), today announced the release of the CSC's [Fiscal Year 2021 legislative proposals](#) that in tandem with the [final report](#), deliver real bi-partisan solutions to better defend the nation's critical infrastructure from cyberattacks of significant consequence.

“The status quo of adversaries increasing their cyber capabilities while America's vulnerabilities continue to grow is unacceptable,” said **Solarium Co-Chair Senator Angus King (I-Maine)**. “These legislative proposals provide Congress with thoughtful solutions that will limit our adversaries' ability to undermine American power and influence.”

“The Cyberspace Solarium Commission was clear: we must act decisively to not only better strengthen our ability to coordinate a whole-of-nation response to cyberattacks of significant consequence, but prevent them in the first place,” said **Solarium Co-Chair Rep. Gallagher (R-WI)**. “These bipartisan proposals provide a road map for strengthening our cyber resiliency and help ensure our country is better prepared for — and able to avoid — a cyber calamity.”

These 54 dynamic and comprehensive legislative actions seek to operationalize the commission's strategy of "Layered Cyber Deterrence" which aims to:

- **shape behavior in cyberspace;**
- **deny benefits to adversaries who exploit cyberspace;**
- **impose costs against those who target America's economic and democratic institutions in and through cyberspace.**

Solarium Commissioner **Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE),** observed "China and Russia are serious threats to American cybersecurity and we've been playing dangerous catch-up for far too long. These important legislative proposals from the Solarium Commission outline how we must compete at a higher level to defend our interests in the digital future."

"One of things I've loved best about working on the Solarium Commission is that we've moved from admiring the problem of cybersecurity to providing actionable solutions," said **Solarium Commissioner Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI).** "These legislative proposals are indispensable as we move on to implementing the layered cyber deterrence strategy outlined in our report. We are already seeing significant uptake from our colleagues as we move national security legislation through Congress, and I look forward to continuing to build on that success."

These legislative proposals were utilized by Members in both the House and Senate to develop submissions into the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act bills – at the initial Markup, Markup Amendment and Floor Amendment stages, as appropriate. The Commission will also look for other legislative vehicles to move these proposals over the remainder of the congressional cycle.

The CSC was established by the John S. McCain National

Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019, and started in April 2019.

This bi-partisan commission convened nearly every Monday that Congress was in session for a year, with 30 commissioner meetings, drawing upon the expertise of congressional legislators, corporate leaders, federal, state and local officials, academics, and cybersecurity experts. The legislative proposals were developed by the Commission's staff after the completion of the [final report](#) but they represent CSC Commissioners' consensus after conducting over 400 engagements and accurately portray the CSC's views on how to implement the report's recommendations.

The 14 commissioners thoroughly examined America's posture in cyberspace and worked closely with the executive branch, key congressional defense and homeland security committees, and the private sector to identify strategic opportunities to improve our national preparedness and resilience to a significant cyber disruption. The Commission white paper, "[Cybersecurity Lessons Learned from the Pandemic](#)" validated that a great number of these legislative proposals are clearly necessary to successfully prepare for non-traditional national security emergencies.

The CSC was inspired by the spirit of the original Project Solarium convened by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. While the first Solarium was created to select a strategy to counter the Soviet Union during the early days of the Cold War, this new iteration of the Solarium similarly carries forward a serious obligation to defend the United States and our allies in this new age of global conflict.

The legislative proposal annex can be read [here](#).

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