

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
The Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
The Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Haley Stevens
Chairwoman
The Subcommittee on Research and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Waltz
Ranking Member
The Subcommittee on Research and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Chairwoman Stevens, Ranking Member Lucas, and Ranking Member Waltz,

On behalf of ISACA®, a global non-profit organization based in Schaumburg, Illinois, we are pleased to write in support of the NIST for the Future Act. For more than 50 years, ISACA has advanced the best talent, expertise, and learning in technology. ISACA equips individuals with knowledge, credentials, education, and community to progress their careers and transform their organizations. It enables enterprises to train and build quality teams that effectively drive IT audit, risk management, and security priorities forward.

Given the changes to the economy over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges impacting organizations across the United States, we see especially excited to see the opportunity the NIST for the Future Act will have to build the skills of underrepresented communities in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professions.

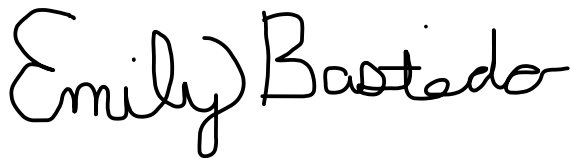
We believe building these skills is very timely as these same organizations are struggling to fill the millions of STEM jobs that will be created over the next decade. Without an ample supply of skilled talent, technology organizations will not be able to keep pace with change, let alone drive it. In fact, the Government Accountability Office recently said that there is “a persistent shortage of cybersecurity and IT professionals to implement and oversee the information security protections to combat cyber threats.”

We are very pleased that the Committee addressed these issues by clarifying the important role that professional organizations play to increase the diversity in STEM fields. Professional development groups and professional societies like ISACA have programs that support women and other underrepresented communities in STEM fields.

ISACA also supports 75 chapters across the United States. Many of these chapters build leadership opportunities, provide apprenticeships, engage in mentorship, and inform the future of many STEM related careers. They also build a connection with local employers and small businesses that are trying to attract local, cybersecurity talent.

ISACA applauds the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for its bipartisan work on the NIST for the Future Act and we look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,



Emily Bastedo
Director, Global Government Relations and Public Affairs