

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, The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security is making critical investments in people, processes, and technology to enhance the cybersecurity infrastructure of the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, increasing the capacity of a 24/7 Security Operations Center, the leadership and coordination of the multiagency Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team (MA-CIRT), and the promotion of industry best practices for good 'cyber hygiene' for both Commonwealth Executive Branch employees and municipal government employees through simulated phishing exercises and annual security awareness training; and

Whereas, The Office of Municipal and School Technology within the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security administers the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program, which annually provides over 44,000 employees from municipal governments and public school districts across the Commonwealth with critical cybersecurity training to better detect and avoid cyber threats, a critical component in training the Commonwealth's local workforce to maintain awareness of evolving cyber-attack techniques utilized by cyber attackers; and

Whereas, The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and its agencies partner with all levels of government to protect and defend the Commonwealth's critical resources and infrastructure by facilitating vital information-sharing, investigating cybercrime, developing interagency response plans, enhancing the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Incident Response Team (MA-CIRT), and implementing best practices to ensure a more cyber resilient Commonwealth; and

Whereas, The MassCyberCenter at MassTech Collaborative is partnering with leaders across the Commonwealth to host and promote cybersecurity-focused events statewide to showcase our impressive cybersecurity ecosystem, to celebrate the progress of statewide programs establishing Cyber Ranges and Security Operations Centers across the Commonwealth that support local resiliency and the development of a diverse cybersecurity workforce, and to promote the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Month 2023 theme of "Be a Cybersecurity Hero," which highlights cybersecurity best practices citizens can follow in their daily lives and promotes cybersecurity as an attractive career choice; and

Whereas, The Healey-Driscoll Administration is actively pursuing available federal resources, including the newly established State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, which will provide over \$16 million in vital funding 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; 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 20th year of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, all citizens 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,

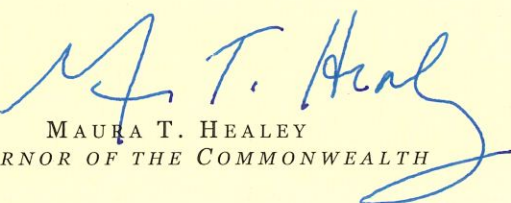
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2023, to be,

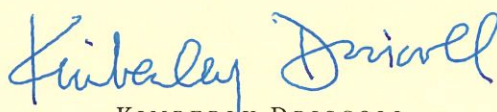
CYBERSECURITY MONTH

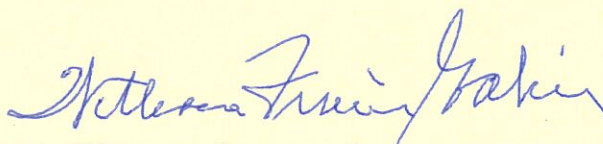
And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take Cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

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

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