

**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0904**

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

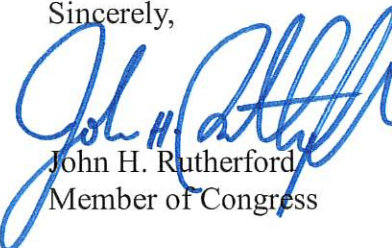
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for technology upgrades for the University of North Florida's Student-Led Security Operations Center (SOC) in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of North Florida, located at 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224. The funding would be used to outfit the SOC with technology upgrades, software, and hardware.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would increase our knowledge of the cybersecurity workforce by directly measuring how well students gain threat detection and response skills through hands-on experience. In addition, this funding will enhance the student-led SOC's capacity to handle the growing volume and complexity of cyber threats for the university and local small businesses, providing more students with the opportunity to gain practical experience. By working with industry-leading tools and receiving training from cybersecurity professionals, students will be well-prepared for their future careers in the cybersecurity field.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress