

# CONGRESSMAN VAN TAYLOR STRENGTHENING STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY DEFENSES ACT



State and local governments often house sensitive data on their systems including financial information of utility customers, medical records, election data, and criminal records. The same is true for associations, small businesses, and the general public.

However, state and local governments are increasingly falling victim to ransomware and other cyber-attacks and often find themselves with limited resources to safeguard their systems.

In Texas alone, more than fifty local governments and school districts have been hit by ransomware attacks in 2019.

Although the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) provides technical resources and alerts in conjunction with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), relatively few state and local governments are currently taking advantage of these services and many are simply unaware of their availability. In fact, only about 8% of the more than 89,000 units of state, local, and tribal government in the United States currently take advantage of these resources.

To address these growing cybersecurity threats, Congressman Van Taylor introduced the *Strengthening State and Local Cybersecurity Defenses Act*. Congressman Taylor's legislation will require CISA, in coordination with MS-ISAC, to increase engagement with smaller units of government in an effort to help protect them from all types of cybersecurity threats.

Specifically, the *Strengthening State and Local Cybersecurity Defenses Act* would require CISA to provide training, conduct exercises, disseminate timely threat notifications, provide technical assistance upon request, improve information sharing, and ensure these entities are aware of all available tools and resources. The bill also requires engagement with associations, businesses, the general public, and international partners.