



Information Technology Industry Council

June 10, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 5312, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Modernization Act of 2016

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 60 members of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI),¹ I write to express our support for H.R. 5312, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Modernization Act of 2016.

The NITRD Program ensures the proper coordination of unclassified networking and information technology (NIT) research and development (R&D) across multiple federal agencies. More specifically, the Program aims to avoid investment redundancies, as well as increase interoperability in supercomputing, high-speed networking, cybersecurity, software engineering, and information management. However, since its inception in 1991, there have been unprecedented technological advances that are not currently addressed in the Program's overall structure. H.R. 5312 comprehensively modernizes the Program by updating essential terminology throughout the underlying law; addressing new areas of NIT research; and encouraging large-scale, long-term, interagency research in critical areas such as data analytics, social computing, human-robot interaction, privacy, and health technology.

The Program plays a key role in supporting continuous federal research in various aspects related to computing, including cybersecurity. Promoting greater federal R&D in cybersecurity is essential for securing our country's digital infrastructure. Consequently, we urge you to support the NITRD Modernization Act when it comes to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Garfield", is written over a horizontal line.

Dean C. Garfield
President and CEO

¹ **About ITI.** The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) is the global voice of the tech sector. As the premier advocacy and policy organization for the world's leading innovation companies, ITI navigates the relationships between policymakers, companies, and non-governmental organizations, providing creative solutions that advance the development and use of technology around the world. Visit www.itic.org to learn more. Follow us on Twitter for the latest ITI news @[ITI_TechTweets](https://twitter.com/ITI_TechTweets).