



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State maintains a high priority on identifying and protecting New Yorkers from – and responding to – cybersecurity threats that may have significant impact on our individual and collective safety and privacy; and

**Whereas**, the nation's network of critical infrastructure includes elements that are vital for day-to-day operations – including financial services, educational institutions, energy, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, health care, and emergency response systems – all of which are increasingly reliant on the support of information systems and technology; and

**Whereas**, the recent series of cybersecurity incidents and data breaches in the United States and worldwide, including a number of ransomware attacks, present extreme threats to the security of large corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, schools, government agencies, the home user, and anyone who connects to the internet by way of computer, mobile phone, or other internet-connected device – and this growing threat illustrates that cybersecurity education and awareness is more crucial than ever; and

**Whereas**, people and organizations can protect themselves from phishing, viruses, ransomware, other types of malware, financial loss, and loss of sensitive data by monitoring their accounts, being conscientious of what they 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-connect devices safely; and

**Whereas**, New York State is dedicated to providing every individual and public and private organization with the resources necessary to ensure the understanding, implementation, and success of this year's Cybersecurity Awareness Month theme, "Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart." to help New Yorkers stay safe online and connect with confidence; and

**Whereas**, the STOP. THINK. CONNECT.™ Campaign was implemented through a coalition of private companies, nonprofit, government organizations, and academic institutions working together to increase the public's understanding of cyber threats and empowering Americans to be safer and more secure online, with information available on these websites: ([www.cisa.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.cisa.gov/stopthinkconnect) or [www.stopthinkconnect.org](http://www.stopthinkconnect.org)); and

**Whereas**, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework is a free resource to help organizations – both large and small, public and private – improve their cybersecurity practices through an effective approach to addressing the ever-evolving cybersecurity threats and challenges; and

**Whereas**, building a strong cybersecurity workforce is in the best interests of our state and nation – and our future – and the New York State Office of Information Technology Services was established in 2012 to enhance and protect New York State's cybersecurity ecosystem; and

**Whereas**, the Federal Government of the United States of America, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency ([www.cisa.gov](http://www.cisa.gov)), the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (<https://www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac>), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers ([www.nascio.org](http://www.nascio.org)), and the National Cyber Security Alliance ([www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org)) recognize October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month; all New Yorkers are encouraged to visit these websites, along with New York State's Office of Information Technology Services (<https://its.ny.gov/>) [www.stopthinkconnect.org](http://www.stopthinkconnect.org) to learn more about cybersecurity and use that knowledge to protect online information and communication in their homes, schools, workplaces, and businesses;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as

## CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of October in the year two thousand twenty-one.

*Kathy Hochul*

Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh