



# The Aerospace States Association

## Resolution 2024-6

### **COMMENDING THE STATE OF ALABAMA FOR ESTABLISHING THE SECURING ALABAMA'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY (SACIR) PILOT PROGRAM REGARDING CYBERSECURITY INNOVATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Aerospace States Association (ASA) recognizes the critical importance of cybersecurity in protecting the infrastructure vital to our national security, economic stability, and public safety; and,

**WHEREAS**, ASA encourages partnerships and innovation in cybersecurity across different levels of government and with private industry, academia, and other organizations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alabama has demonstrated exceptional leadership in addressing these challenges and implementing innovative partnerships through the establishment of the Securing Alabama's Critical Infrastructure Resiliency (SACIR) (pronounced "secure") pilot program; and,

**WHEREAS**, SACIR fosters partnerships and innovation with multiple lines of effort to pursue development of new technologies, consider new ways to apply existing technologies, seek ways to grow existing businesses, attract additional businesses, create jobs, and foster workforce development in all parts of the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, initial accomplishments include establishing the Alabama National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (ACE) at the Center for Cybersecurity Research and Education (CCRE) at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), a cyber technology pilot with Auburn University, and other activities; and,

**WHEREAS**, one of the accomplishments of SACIR includes cybersecurity software developed by UAH students called Small Satellite Defender that was successfully tested on CubeSats in orbit in October 2023 for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC); and,

**WHEREAS**, the GPS and Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory (GAVLab) at Auburn University is nearing completion in the fall of 2024 on another part of SACIR, Phase I of Security Alabama's Future Network Pilot (SAFeNet Pilot), to demonstrate new cybersecurity technologies in the operation of an autonomous vehicles by implementing a Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) solution to provide enhanced security; and,

**WHEREAS**, the GPS and Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory (GAVLab) and McCrary Institute for Cyber and Critical Infrastructure Security at Auburn University are leading efforts to implement a Phase II of Security Alabama's Future Network Pilot (SAFeNet Pilot) to adapt the technologies developed and demonstrated in Phase I for use in other critical infrastructure including utilities, autonomous school buses, farm vehicles, and other uses and are working to establish a national Autonomous Vehicle Challenge (AVC) intended to be conducted not less than every other year; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth has been instrumental in spearheading the SACIR initiative, showcasing a strong commitment to safeguarding Alabama's critical infrastructure from cyber



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threats and facilitating and showcasing Alabama's leadership in cybersecurity innovation and workforce development; and,

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on 21st Century Workforce have played a crucial role in the development and implementation of innovative strategies to enhance cybersecurity and workforce development across the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Legislature has provided essential support and legislative backing to ensure the successful launch of the SACIR program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SACIR program represents a significant advancement in cybersecurity measures, aiming to protect vital assets and ensure the resilience of critical infrastructure against emerging threats; and,

**WHEREAS**, this initiative also addresses the growing demand for a skilled workforce in the cybersecurity sector, providing training and development opportunities that will prepare Alabama's workforce to meet the challenges of the 21st century and serving as a model for other states.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aerospace States Association commends the State of Alabama, Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, the members of the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on 21st Century Workforce, and the Alabama State Legislature, and all SACIR Partners for their visionary leadership and collaborative efforts in establishing the Securing Alabama's Critical Infrastructure Resiliency (SACIR) program; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the ASA recognizes the SACIR program as a model of excellence in cybersecurity and workforce development, setting an example for other states to follow in protecting their critical infrastructure and preparing their workforce for the future.

**ADOPTED ON THIS** 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2024.

  
**ASA Secretary/Lt Governor Josh Tenorio, Guam**