

Testimony in Support of HB 215 (2020)
Criminal Law – Crimes Involving Computers – Ransomware
House Judiciary Committee, January 28, 2020

Sponsor: Delegate Erek Barron and Delegate Wanika Fisher

Testimony by: Netta Squires, JD, MSL, CEM

I offer this testimony in support of HB 215 in my personal capacity.

Good Afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Netta Squires, I am a Senior Law and Policy Analyst for the Center for Health and Homeland Security at the University of Maryland Carrey School of Law , I am also an Adjunct Professor of Cybersecurity Technology and Digital Forensics at the Graduate School, University of Maryland Global Campus, and Adjunct Professor of Emergency Management at the Mid Atlantic Center for Emergency Management. In addition, I am a Certified Emergency Manager by the International Association of Emergency Management. I have a JD with a focus in Disaster Law, a MSL in Cybersecurity Policy and a Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity Technology.

My academic and professional background are exactly in the crossroads of fields we are discussing today; law, cybersecurity, and emergency management.

I am here in support of HOUSE BILL 215, Criminal Law- Crimes Involving Computers-Ransomware.

As a Regional Preparedness Specialist for the National Capital Region and a Planner for Montgomery County Office for Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a significant portion of my job entails Consequent Management planning. I.e., what's the plan once something has occurred. This could be providing a shelter following a fire, opening a family reunification center following an active assailant attack, or activating the Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan and Continuity of Operations Plans, following a ransomware attack. These plans all fall in the response phase, they are all reactive.

Prevention and Mitigation are major pillars of Emergency Management. If the hazard can be eliminated, there is a higher chance of reducing or eradicating the potential impact.

Ransomware attacks have very real-world kinetic effects. In 2016, hackers used Samas, or "samsam," which is a virus-like software, to scan the Internet for vulnerable JBoss servers,