



April 24, 2017

White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Priebus,

[\(ISC\)²](#) is the largest nonprofit membership body of certified cyber, information, software and infrastructure security professionals, with over 123,000 members worldwide. We are writing today on behalf of our members across the globe to provide feedback on President Trump's [Executive Order on Buy American and Hire American](#).

Since 1989, (ISC)² and our certifications have provided a solid foundation for the life-long development of the industry's top talent. As a professional membership community, our role is to inform and educate wherever there is a void, in order to better safeguard people and their information assets. As an advocate for the professionalization of the cybersecurity workforce, our role is to be the voice of our members and the broader cybersecurity profession. Our ability to effectively fulfill these roles ultimately determines the success of our mission – to inspire a safe and secure cyber world.

We are all too familiar with the widespread and damaging effects of cyber threats that are revealed on a daily basis. At the same time, the demand for skilled cybersecurity workers is rapidly increasing. The 2017 (ISC)² [Global Information Security Workforce Study](#) reveals a projected workforce gap of 1.8 million information security workers by 2022. (ISC)² recently testified in a [Subcommittee on Information Technology hearing](#) on ways we can make progress. It's clear that even after giving U.S. citizens priority consideration for open cybersecurity positions, we will still face a substantial talent shortfall that can be mitigated with an H-1B visa program that helps U.S. firms fill these roles without impacting American workers. While we must continue to invest in training, education and certification programs to help build tomorrow's U.S. cyber workforce, we must not turn away qualified experts from across the globe who can help advance our mission today.

We hope that any improvements the administration makes to the H-1B visa program will enable U.S. firms to continue leveraging our overseas members, who have the skill and expertise to strengthen the security of our nation's products and services. Qualified cybersecurity professionals are in high demand across the globe, which creates an opportunity for us to attract the world's top cyber talent. An H-1B visa program that takes that into account will bolster the global competitiveness of U.S. companies and strengthen the collective cyber defense of our economy.

If you are looking for a way to verify cybersecurity professionals for H1-B visas, may we suggest using our certifications as one way to validate H1-B applicants for the necessary skills and experience. The (ISC)² Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) training and exam is the industry-leading certification for information security professionals. When cybersecurity professionals earn their CISSP, it shows they have the knowledge and skills of true experts. The CISSP was the first credential in the field of information security to meet the stringent requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17024, and is also [DoD 8140/8570 approved](#). Not only is the CISSP an objective measure of excellence, but also a globally recognized standard of achievement.





One way to quickly identify if an individual has one of our certifications is through our badge verification called [Acclaim](#). Acclaim works with credible organizations such as (ISC)² to provide digital credentials to individuals. Based on the Open Badges standard developed by Mozilla, these digital badges represent credentials in a verified and secure manner. Acclaim allows its users to document skills, experiences and learning in a way that's verifiable for employers, schools, and other groups.

As with any profession, ethics helps determine the difference between right and wrong. Another valuable aspect of (ISC)² membership is that each member must abide by a standard code of ethics. All cybersecurity professionals who are certified by (ISC)² recognize that such certification is a privilege that must be both earned and maintained. Our [code of ethics](#) preamble states that *"...the safety and welfare of society and the common good, duty to our principles, and to each other, requires that we adhere, and be seen to adhere, to the highest ethical standards of behavior."* Failure to abide by our code is subject to action by a peer review panel, which may result in the revocation of certification.

(ISC)² hopes to establish an open avenue of communication with you, your staff and others in the presidential administration as you strengthen cybersecurity for our country. Let's not prevent talented cybersecurity professionals such as our global members who can offer their expertise to benefit the U.S. economy immediately.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Waddell', written in a cursive style.

Dan Waddell, CISSP, CAP, PMP
(ISC)² Managing Director of North America
Director of U.S. Government Affairs