

Testimony of David Childers

RE: HB2996

March 20, 2015

Chair Read, members of the committee it is my pleasure to address you today. For the record, my name is David Childers. I am a resident of Lake Oswego, Oregon and I am here representing the Technology Association of Oregon, where I serve as Chair Emeritus. I also serve as the Vice-Chair of the ETIC Council. During my career I have served as a CEO for 22 years, founding two successful Oregon start-ups, and mentoring dozens of CEOs and emerging companies around the State. I am certified board educator by the National Association of Boards of Corporate Directors, a Certified Compliance Professional, and a FBI trained Certified Information Privacy Professional.

I am here before you today in support of HB2996, the establishment of the Oregon Center for Cyber Excellence. As a member of the Oregon business community I constantly hear the calls for better qualified and skilled cyber security talent and access to resources to help them prepare or respond to a data breach.

As you likely know, Cyber Crime is the fastest growing segment of criminal activity. It affects consumers, small and large businesses and it has become an area of national significance. There are a number of trends that are very disturbing. We are seeing an increase in foreign governments using cyber as a form of "cold warfare," ransomware is on the rise for companies and individuals and as you hear later from Bob Gregg medical identity theft is growing faster than any other sector.

Mitigating cyber risk requires research, training and "just in time" support. Without an approved state center it is difficult, if not impossible, for a university to receive Federal grant funding. I am pleased to share that the Oregon colleges and universities have embraced the viability of the OCOE and have voluntarily worked to create a Cyber Consortium to take advantage of the OCOE when it is established. Not all cyber-training requires a four year degree. However, every degree and role – including the staff of our State's CIO – need to remain current within a very fluid and rapidly changing environment. Accordingly, there are a number of certifications and ongoing educational updates that can be administered by our community colleges. We expect the center to create collaboration between the four year institutions and their adjacent community colleges to fill this void.

In terms of community, law enforcement and consumers the OCOE will serve as a technical "extension service." Providing a place to coordinate Cyber-security education, share cyber-expertise and disseminate best practices; and facilitate Cyber-security research. Cyber-awareness and education is a serious concern and it requires the requested funding to help protect our small businesses, develop the appropriate curriculum to fill Oregon jobs and allow our research universities the opportunity to participate on a national scale.

I encourage you to support HB2996.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

David Childers

503-816-2362 | david@childers.com