



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: February 14, 2023
TO: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
FROM: Alex Cuyler, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager
RE: HB 2806, relating to public meetings

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis, Vice Chair Tran and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans:

Lane County offer sits full support for HB 2806, a bill that will help protect local governments from cybersecurity threats and promote safety for our staff and volunteers by allowing these sensitive issues to be discussed in a non-public, secure setting. HB 2806 adds these two topics to the list of exemptions from public meetings and reflects the needs of times we live in.

Cybersecurity attacks are on the rise. The City of Oakland became victim to a ransomware attack several days ago and was forced to take all systems offline. This impacted city operations and services. Local governments are commonly targeted because of the valuable information that is held within our systems. The consequences are costly and create an impact to the services we provide to our communities.

Far too often government staff and volunteers are targeted due to or in connection with their service to the community. It is important that government leaders be able to discuss vulnerabilities and critical measures necessary to keep people safe, without divulging those discussions with the public.

It is crucial that safety is ensured, and that public bodies have clear guidance that confirms that they can meet in executive session without exposing vulnerable data and safety information to bad actors and people seeking to do harm. Promoting productive conversations in executive session ensures the safety of those we work with and digital safety for the systems so many rely on for essential services.

HB 2086 changes nothing else regarding the function of a non-public session of a governing body and strikes the right balance between transparency and open government with the need for safety of our staff, volunteers, and technology systems. It is a common-sense approach to threats to public bodies, staff and volunteers.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER