



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 22, 2023

TO: Senator Aaron Woods and Rep Nancy Nathanson,
Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director
Kate Denison, Deputy Legislative Director
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: HB 2049 Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

This testimony is presented in support of HB 2049.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) support HB 2049 because it will help Oregon meet its cybersecurity challenges.

Cyber resilience is key to the safety, health, and happiness of Oregonians. Individuals, schools, libraries, businesses, and government rely on computers, cloud services, and interconnected devices to conduct their daily affairs. Our collective reliance on information technology comes with ever-evolving risks to the safety and security of our infrastructure, and to our personal safety and information as consumers. HB 2049's investment in the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence and its programs and services will provide Oregonians with the means to protect ourselves and our communities against cyber threats, and the means to respond to and recover from cyber-attacks.

HB 2049's investment of authority in the Center of Excellence will provide the framework for Oregon's higher education system to augment and deliver a comprehensive range of cybersecurity programs throughout Oregon and reinforce Oregon's position as a home base for the technology industry.

Today's security vulnerabilities are evidenced by the growing number of security and data breach incidents: since 2015, approximately 830 data security breaches were reported to the DOJ's Consumer Protection Section. HB 2049 will be a huge step towards protecting against and reducing the impact of these violations.

HB 2049 will position Oregon to receive additional federal cybersecurity grant funding for the programs within its vision and allow for services that cannot be provided by state government alone. It will establish the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at Portland State University,

which, in cooperation with the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, will be tasked with bolstering public, private, and nonprofit sector organizations' cybersecurity workforces in all Oregon communities and at all levels of government. The Center will promote Oregon public bodies' access to cybersecurity-related goods and services in all Oregon communities at all levels of government, and it will provide public education and awareness campaigns to raise all Oregonians' awareness of cybersecurity threats and how to be safer and more secure online.

The bill will also bolster the Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council, which will serve as the advisory body for the Center of Excellence. The re-visioned Council will represent geographically diverse organizations inclusive of state government, local government, regional government, tribal government, educational, critical infrastructure, and private sector representatives. HB 2049 will expand the ability of the Council to collaboratively assess and meet Oregon's cybersecurity needs across the public and private sectors, encouraging more cross-discipline collaboration in cybersecurity industries, and benefit all Oregon communities.

HB 2049 is an opportunity for Oregon to meet the challenges presented by our reliance on technology, provide support to our local governments, and give us a workforce to not only meet the future, but build the future. We strongly urge your support.

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