



February, 1, 2022

Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Letter of Support for LC 295

Co-Chairs Armitage and Nathanson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support on LC 295. Multnomah County is a proud member of the Technology Association of Oregon, who is also proud to support LC 295.

The Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) is the force behind the regional tech industry – supporting entrepreneurs, connecting peers and decision makers, and helping establish the northwest as a global hub for innovation. TAO works with over 500 tech and tech-enabled companies throughout Oregon, ranging in size from one-person startups to some of the largest companies in the world. As the need for cybersecurity has never been more important due to the increase of ransomware and cyberattacks, TAO and its members are excited to see this revolutionary reform come forth.

As the state works to modernize our governmental infrastructure and proactively prepare for emergency response, it is crucial that investments are made in both physical and online technological infrastructure. LC 295 does exactly this by simultaneously addressing real time cybersecurity concerns and planning for the future. Calling upon Portland State University, Oregon State University and University of Oregon to coordinate the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence will provide the state with a unified cybersecurity voice, paving the way in education and implementation for the state. Given the local and national IT labor shortage, establishing the Cybersecurity Workforce Development Fund, Cybersecurity Grant Program Fund, and Cybersecurity Public Awareness Fund will help train the current and next generation of talent and ensure cybersecurity information is shared statewide, between governments and across sectors.

Many SLTT Governments lack the resources and training to provide their residents with type of data protection that they deserve. This bill will offer smaller cities and county's an opportunity to increase their cybersecurity posture which can contribute to better data protection and reduce the risk of disruption of critical services that are important to their residents and communities. Collectively we are only as strong as our weakest link and by providing resources that have previously only been available to larger organizations like Multnomah County we can all rest easier in this front line battle.

For these reasons, Multnomah County and the Technology Association of Oregon respectfully encourage support of LC 295. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,



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Systems Security Professional



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