



To: Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology  
Sen Rachel Armitage and Rep Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chairs

From: Birol A. Yeşilada, Ph.D. Professor & Director, Mark O. Hatfield School of Government & National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity  
Tom Weller, Ph.D. Professor & Head, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
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Re: **Support for HB 4155 and the (-1) Amendments**

During the past weeks we met with committee staff and legislative counsel to draft amendments to HB 4155. The Cybersecurity Center of Excellence's goals remain the same, coordinating, funding and providing cybersecurity workforce development, education, awareness and training for public, private and nonprofit sector organizations, and facilitating cybersecurity-related goods and services to Oregon public bodies with a targeted focus on the unmet needs of regional and local government, special districts, education service districts, K-12 schools and libraries.

The -1 amendments improve HB 4155 by providing clarification of the Center's funding structure and a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the Center, Advisory Council and state leadership.

As example,

- The funds will now be appropriated to HECC and then to the respective universities.
- The new approach to have the Center establish its charter and strategic plan, with the benefit of input from the Advisory Council, will provide for efficient launch of the Center's activities.
- The three partner universities in the Center will now establish a joint operating agreement to ensure smooth and continuous execution of its responsibilities.

We are eager to launch the Center and the partnership between PSU, OSU and UofO, combining our respective cybersecurity strengths will benefit Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation. Please support HB 4155 with the (-1) amendments.