

HB 2806 Testimony in support on behalf of AOC- Association of Oregon Counties
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

February 14, 2023

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

My name is Dennis Tomlin and I serve as the Chief Information Security Officer for Multnomah County where I am responsible for protecting the data that has been entrusted to us by our residents and employees. I also serve on the Executive Committee of the Multi-State Information Security Analytic Center, which exists to support government entities at the State and Local level with their cybersecurity challenges. Finally I am the national, local government representative to the State Local Tribal and Territorial Governance Coordinating Council which advises CISA on cybersecurity topics that are relevant to local government. Today, I am testifying on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties.

The AOC legislative committee voted to support this concept on Feb 6, 2023.
(AOC) strongly supports HB 2806.

State and Local governments are heavily targeted by cyber criminals as they are perceived as the soft underbelly of our government structure here in the US. Cyber security attacks are common and many organizations fall victim to these cyber criminals on a daily basis. A single cyber event can cost an organization hundreds of thousands of dollars and disrupt the critical services that our residents rely on.

Most organizations have Incident Response playbooks or plans which serve to guide a team through an incident. These playbooks contain confidential information, which if were in the wrong hands could provide a blueprint for attacking the organization using cyber tactics.

During an incident plans may change, decisions will be made to attempt to rapidly mitigate the incident. These decisions must remain confidential.

After an incident has been mitigated it is critical to document the lessons that were learned in order to reduce the risk of a future event. These lessons often include sensitive information which could be used, if in the wrong hands to plan a future attack.

HB 2806 is necessary to ensure counties can withhold this sensitive information.

Public entities need clear guidance which confirms that their governing bodies can meet in executive session to discuss cybersecurity matters without running the risk of making their jurisdictions networks systems and data more vulnerable in the process by having to publicly disclose those deliberations.

In addition to supporting HB 2806, AOC also supports HB 2490 which is a similar bill that creates a public records exemption for cybersecurity plans, devices and systems, including contractual and insurance records.

We encourage the committee to consider supporting this important legislation.

On behalf of the AOC.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tomlin, CISSP, HCISPP, ITIL
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