



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**



OAESD
OREGON ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICTS



Date: February 22, 2023

To: Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology

From: Parasa Chanramy, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association
Ozzie Rose, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts

Subject: K-12 Coalition Letter of Support for House Bill 2049

Dear Co-Chair Nathanson, Co-Chair Woods, and Members of the Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, Oregon School Boards Association, and Oregon Association of Education Service Districts, we submit this letter to express our support for House Bill 2049 on cybersecurity.

Collectively, our members lead 197 school districts and 19 education service districts (ESDs) that serve over half a million students in Oregon. Our districts and ESDs operate information and technology systems at enterprise scale.

As we advance our technology infrastructure and capacity, especially over the course of the pandemic, our districts and ESDs have increasingly become the target of cybercriminals.

In Oregon, our districts and ESDs have been victims of a range of cyberattacks from ransomware and phishing to information system breaches. These cyberattacks – and the threats of cyberattacks – are disruptive, and in some cases, destabilizing to our systems and operations.

Our members around the state have also stated that responding to these threats, intrusions, and attacks can be a huge strain on their staffing and financial resources, and impact their ability to deliver core educational services to students.

Increasing our cybersecurity cannot happen in a vacuum - it is critical that we coordinate with state and regional partners across Oregon to elevate the importance of cybersecurity risk management; modernize and secure our technology systems; and improve security for everyone interacting with our systems.

That is why we support the passage of House Bill 2049.



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House Bill 2049 is a bill that is long overdue. The bill:

- Adds K-12 partners to the Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council
- Helps Oregon compete for, and receive, federal cybersecurity infrastructure funding
- Provides grant opportunities for the short-term needs of school districts, cities, counties, and other public entities
- Invests in cybersecurity workforce development and public awareness

We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure that the bill advances this legislative session. Please vote YES in support of House Bill 2049.