

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 26



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Testimony in Support of HB 2049**

February 22, 2023

Co-Chair Woods and Co-Chair Nathanson and members of the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology,

For the record, my name is Courtney Neron and I am the State Representative for House District 26. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2049.

The growth of virtual commerce and communication has created new vulnerabilities for local governments, nonprofits and private businesses. The advancement of technology and the widespread availability of the internet have in many ways increased public access and participation. At the same time, the Internet has opened the door for new internet-based disruptions, including hacking, malware, ransomware, phishing, and other types of cyber-attacks that can impede access to critical infrastructure and services. This issue is impacting many jurisdictions and entities, including our schools.

In 2021, for example, Centennial High School had to close their classrooms for two days as staff worked to fix a ransomware attack, putting the private information of nearly 7,000 students at risk. And just a few years prior, Roseburg Public Schools had to pay a ransom to completely restore and retrieve data. We urgently need to build up our cybersecurity infrastructure to prevent ransomware attacks like these in the future and protect sensitive information.

HB 2049 would establish the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence to coordinate funding streams, strengthen our cybersecurity workforce, and provide opportunities for education and awareness across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. I also appreciate how this legislation requires the Cybersecurity Advisory Council to include geographically diverse stakeholders and how it positions Oregon to leverage federal dollars.

This bill will improve training, increase access to technical expertise, and be supported by three of Oregon's public universities. Entities operating in Oregon will benefit from the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I urge your support and passage of HB 2049.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,  
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain