

Submitter: Sullivan Swift
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

April 30, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz
Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5525

Dear Senator Sollman, Representative Ruiz, and members of the Subcommittee on Education,

I am writing to express my support of SB 5525, which would appropriate moneys from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for funding the second biennium of the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (OCCoE).

As the Senior Project Manager for the Certificate in Building Cyber Resilience at the OCCoE, I regularly interact with our state's local governments and see their cybersecurity needs firsthand. The passing of this bill is important to me because I see the cybersecurity needs of these organizations. The OCCoE already provides critical support, but can do so much more to bolster the cyber resilience of all Oregon's public entities, especially those without personnel dedicated to the task.

The Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence can provide critical cyber protection for cities too small to have any dedicated personnel or the expensive software and systems necessary to deter cyber crime. This protects the citizens of Oregon whose data is at risk in any breach of government systems. The most crucial needs I see for our SLTT agencies are:

- * Workforce development, resources, and connections around the state
- * Affordable Security Operations Center (SOC) services
- * Assistance with cybersecurity insurance
- * Cybersecurity awareness and public outreach

In my interactions with Certificate program participants and SLTT employees around the state, I regularly hear about the need for more resources and more support to enable these organizations to build resilience against cyber attacks, and to create recovery plans when one does happen.

If this bill is passed, I and my colleagues at OCCoE will be able to continue doing critical work for cybersecurity in Oregon and expand our programs to reach and bolster more organizations. I urge you to support SB 5525.

Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Sullivan Swift

Senior Project Manager, Portland State University, Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence