



May 2, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Representative Ricki Ruiz, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5525

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

We respectfully support the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 5525 as it relates to further support of the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (OCCoE). The Center operates two programs, the Professional Certificate in Building Cyber Resilience and the GenCyber Cyber Camps for high school students, that are important to Oregon's continued efforts to build a more cyber aware community and position students for cyber careers. An allocation of \$11.3 million will benefit OCCoE's continued and expanded outreach across the state through their much-needed cybersecurity training and education programs.

Fortinet is a US company that is one of the largest cybersecurity companies in the world. While we manufacture over half of the firewalls sold worldwide, our portfolio extends across nearly 60 different integrated cybersecurity and networking solutions and services, reflecting our commitment to innovation as information technology (IT) and cyber threats continue to evolve. In addition to our products and services, Fortinet operates a robust cybersecurity training institute focused on helping to address the significant global cyber workforce and skill gaps and preparing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. Our ultimate goal is to enable a more digitally secure society.

The demand for skilled professionals continues to grow with more than 500,000 cybersecurity professionals required to address the workforce gap within the US.¹ Our 2024 *Cybersecurity Skills Gap Global Research Report* revealed that 75% of U.S. organizations believe the shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals is escalating security risks.² This is further amplified our recent *2025 Global Threat Landscape Report*

¹ <https://homeland.house.gov/2024/09/24/chairman-green-introduces-cyber-pivott-act-to-tackle-government-cyber-workforce-shortage-create-pathways-for-10000-new-professionals/>

² <https://www.fortinet.com/content/dam/fortinet/assets/reports/2024-cybersecurity-skills-gap-report.pdf>



that noted: “a dramatic escalation in both the scale and sophistication of cyberattacks.”³

We view cybersecurity as a team sport. No one entity is able to go it alone on cybersecurity, so effective partnerships between the public and private sector are crucial to stay ahead of the evolving cyberthreat. The Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence is part of that ecosystem focused on creating a robust cybersecurity workforce and growing general cyber awareness for everyone.

Thank you for your strong commitment to ensuring Oregon is a leader in cybersecurity. We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for this funding and for your service to the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Rashotte", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Rob Rashotte
Vice President, Training Institute and Global Field Enablement

³ <https://www.fortinet.com/corporate/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/2025/fortinet-threat-report-reveals-record-surge-in-automated-cyberattacks>