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Testimony on HB 2331 – Kansas Cybersecurity Act

February 15, 2017

Representative Tom Sloan

Representative Larry Campbell

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: HB 2331 is similar to HB 2509 that passed the House of Representatives almost unanimously in 2016 --- only to have the Senate hijack the bill for a Dept. of Commerce issue.

HB 2509 and HB 2331 originated from hearings in the Vision 2020 Committee on the risk to individual and state data from hackers. We heard testimony about the Russian Mafia hacking the South Carolina Dept. of Revenue's data base and stealing personal data on more than three fourths of South Carolina's tax payers. We heard testimony about two 10 year old British lads who hacked the Montana public safety system that maintains the roadside signs alerting drivers to road hazards. While the two lads' message about the coming zombie attacks was considered humorous, the fact that the state's system could be hacked by ten year olds was an eye opener for Committee members.

Multiple states have had databases hacked; multiple private sector businesses have been hacked; and hackers range from state-authorized attacks from China, Korea, Russia, Iran, and elsewhere to young people to anti-establishment individuals.

Because state agencies are not all equally adept at protecting their data (e.g., the difference in staffing and budgets between the Barbers Board and the Dept. of Revenue) and many state agencies are linked to local governments that may be more susceptible to hacking (e.g., water systems connected to the KDHE laboratory), HB 2331 is vital.

The Vision 2020 Committee members recognized that funding such an integrated, comprehensive cybersecurity process is vital to its success. Because every state agency requires computer staff to serve employees and ultimately their customers, in HB 2509 we ensured that the agency budgets would not be raided to fund the statewide security effort. HB 2331 goes a step further by identifying a specific funding source.

HB 2331 creates a centralized responsibility to ensure that all state agencies effectively protect their clients' personal information and I encourage you to support the measure.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.