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Testimony of the Information Assurance Manager  
Support of Senate Bill 342  
Before the Senate Ways & Means Committee  
February 1, 2018

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jeff Maxon and I am currently the Information Assurance Manager for the Kansas Information Security Office. I am providing this testimony in support of Senate Bill 342

In today's environment, State business functions require two major components to provide services to our citizens. Those two components are information technology systems and the citizens' information or data itself.

Information Assurance is the protection of data by ensuring confidentiality, integrity, availability, non-repudiation, and authenticity. The goal of information assurance is to ensure that information is used by the right people, for the right purpose, and as it is needed. An information assurance program, focuses on identifying risks to an organization, its business processes, and its information and then using managerial, operational, and technical security controls to manage those risks and protect an organization's information. Additionally, an information assurance program works to achieve compliance with the various requirements that an organization may be subjected to. In many instances, executive branch agencies must comply with various federal information security requirements. These requirements may range from being very broad, to very stringent and focused.

We as a government and as customers, demand that businesses protect our information and conform to industry best practices. Yet we do not require our own governmental agencies to maintain a comprehensive information assurance program, which is an industry standard and is expected of businesses that collect our information.

Historically, organizations have always made information security an IT problem. In reality, information security is a business and organizational problem. The inappropriate ownership of information security responsibility has led to the current state where information security is not a priority. The Kansas Cybersecurity Act requires executive branch agencies, boards, and commissions leadership to take responsibility and ownership of protecting our information and our citizens' information. The proposed legislation also provides a framework of authorities and responsibilities to establish a comprehensive information assurance and information security program by establishing an information security authority. This office will provide the technical resources, personnel and knowledge to support information security objectives throughout the executive branch. Through the cooperative and collective efforts of this authority, costs can be kept down, while providing a consistent level of information security across the executive branch. Additionally, with the industry recognized shortage of information security professionals, a dedicated information security office can ensure that qualified information security professionals are recruited, trained, filling positions, and supporting our executive branch.

Currently, from an information assurance prospective, the Kansas Information Security Office supports four agencies, the Department of Revenue, Department for Children and Families, the Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce, and Americas Job Link Alliance. The KISO Information Security Officers are working hard to integrate with management and executives to introduce a security aware culture within the business units. Additionally, they are working hard to encourage an environment of risk awareness and management. However, with the shortage of security professionals, qualified information assurance individuals are hard to come by and typically enjoy in higher compensation in the private sector. In order to make the services of qualified information security professionals more affordable to agencies, the KISO, shares the cost among agencies subscribing to this service. However, agencies have been slow to accept the associated costs with information security as they are on an upward trend.

Again, we want to ensure we are good stewards of our citizens' information across the executive branch. The Kansas Cybersecurity Act ensures that executive branch agencies, boards, and commissions perform due care and due diligence in protecting our citizens' information while providing them with additional resources to help fulfil our obligations to the citizens of Kansas. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.