

**To: House Committee on Appropriations**  
**From: DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO)**  
**Subject: Neutral Written Testimony on HB 2188**  
**Date: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2188. Passage of House Bill 2188 would require JCIT to review state agency contracts for certain information technology (IT) projects.

As Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) for the Executive Branch, I am committed to a transparent and open oversight and review process for IT projects. Currently, the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) serves as the project management office responsible for IT project reporting. The approval process that the KITO manages ensures that the necessary technical review is conducted in a thorough and timely manner.

To that end, the KITO is working towards establishing an IT project tracking dashboard, which will be continually updated with the most recent information and status for ongoing IT projects. Agencies, legislators and stakeholders will be able to view the dashboard and drill down into specific details. In this way, I believe that members of JCIT will have a more thorough and up-to-date view of where projects stand at any given moment.

My office has worked closely with the members of JCIT to introduce legislation that would alter the way that the project approval process would work. In previous years, projects that cost more than \$250,000 were subject to review by the KITO office. This review model tends to understate the importance of risk in project approval—there are some high-dollar projects that don't present much risk to State IT systems. Conversely, there are some small-dollar IT projects that do present risk to State IT systems. Our proposal would shift to a risk-based model of review for IT projects. Before IT projects would be bid, projects would be assessed for risk, and the projects that present risk to the State IT system would be subject to further review by the KITO.

The new risk-based approach of evaluating and monitoring State IT projects will greatly increase the number of reported projects being monitored by KITO. With the introduction of HB2188, in conjunction with the potential increased number of reported projects, we will need to be mindful of not creating delays in both the current and future approval process. KITO's review and approval processes are designed in a way to balance oversight with flexibility, to ensure that projects can be reviewed in a timely manner.

This balance and timeliness are key to helping state agencies keep IT projects on time, on track, and on budget. The goal is for the approval process to manage the State's risk, while also keeping projects moving. Maintaining an orderly and transparent review process that provides appropriate level of oversight is my priority as CITO.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this context to you as you consider HB 2188.

Thank you,

DeAngela Burns-Wallace  
Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer