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STATE SENATOR · 5TH DISTRICT

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TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review and Consumer Protection

FR: Senator Dale Kooyenga

RE: Support for SB 786 – relating to cybersecurity standards for state government entities and granting rule-making authority.

Thank you for holding a hearing on SB 786. Cybercrime is a growing problem and its costs are staggering. With an increasing number of state employees working remotely and outside of state-run networks, it's more important than ever for the state to adopt more rigorous security standards in the procurement of end-user technology like laptops and tablets, where our technology is most vulnerable.

The growing prevalence of cyber-attacks means it is not a matter of if you'll be attacked, but when an attack will come. Cyber-attacks are also becoming much more large-scale and destructive; there is no such thing as a minor cyber threat any more. It is not uncommon to see cyber-attacks take down hundreds of thousands of machines in a single event. The average interruption to operations is 18 hours and the average cost is more than half a million dollars per security event.

Private and public sector goals of increased productivity and employee flexibility has required data to be accessible to endpoint users anytime and anywhere. This data is no longer being solely accessed on a single laptop secured by a state-run network. Critical information on these endpoint devices is being accessed across numerous public and private cloud, web, and server hosting environments, and there are inadequate cyber security controls to ensure the integrity of these connections.

It is critical that every endpoint device includes cybersecurity as a critical procurement requirement and utilizes best practices and standards. We cannot solely depend on the endpoint users to access and distribute sensitive information in a secure way.

This bill requires the Department of Administration to promulgate administrative rules adopting cybersecurity standards for state agencies and authorities, including standards for the purchase of endpoint devices. Under the bill, the rules must be consistent with the framework established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Wisconsin should protect its critical infrastructure, its taxpayers, and citizens' data. In order to do so, Wisconsin should adopt the cybersecurity industry standards and best practices to combat adversaries, and cybersecurity must be a key decision-making factor in procuring endpoint devices for the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for hearing SB 786. I respectfully ask for your support.