



February 22, 2017

The Honorable Paul Gazelka
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3113
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Office of the Speaker
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Support of 2018-2019 Budget Proposal

Senate Leader Gazelka, and House Speaker Daudt:

On behalf of the IT Alliance for Public Sector (ITAPS),¹ I am writing in support of the inclusion of a series of much needed information technology (IT) upgrades within the Governor's 2018-2019 budget proposal. These enhancements include a \$74 million increase in cybersecurity funding, \$51 million for upgrades to legacy IT systems and IT infrastructure, and \$60 million for rural broadband deployment. We urge your support in working to include these desperately needed IT infrastructure and cybersecurity improvements in the final budget.

The benefits of updating legacy IT systems and increasing funding for cybersecurity far outweigh the cost that the state will incur if left unaddressed. Outdated IT systems lend themselves to operational inefficiencies, dissatisfied constituents, increased maintenance cost, and can increase cybersecurity vulnerabilities. The older an IT system gets, the more vulnerable it is to attacks, many of which go undetected until it is too late; therefore, it is imperative that state IT systems be modernized to improve the ability to withstand attacks. Overall, these funds would have the benefit of supporting the creation, enhancement and extension of state-wide IT capabilities and increase potential for significant long-term savings.

Additionally, threats to state government systems are becoming increasingly frequent and sophisticated and ignoring such a proliferation in criminal capability could prove catastrophic. To mitigate some of these new challenges, increased funding is required to bolster the state's cybersecurity posture and resiliency. The state is currently in need of additional resources and when budgeting for the next two years it is all but assured that the threat will increase exponentially if the state is not provided the resources required.

In conclusion, we urge you to support increased funding for IT infrastructure and cybersecurity as the budget process moves forward. Please contact me at 202-524-5548 or at lcrawford@itic.org, if you wish to discuss further. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you through the budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Daudt".

¹ **About the IT Alliance for Public Sector (ITAPS):** As a division of ITI, ITAPS is an alliance of leading technology companies offering the latest innovations and solutions to public sector markets. With a focus on the federal, state and local levels of government, as well as on educational institutions, the ITAPS team advocates for improved procurement policies and practices, while identifying business development opportunities and sharing market intelligence with our industry participants.



IT Alliance for Public Sector

February 12, 2016

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Liam Crawford
Senior Manager, State, Local, and Education Technology

cc: Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka
House Speaker Kurt Daudt