

CENTER FOR
DIGITAL
GOVERNMENT

May 9, 2017

Rep. Kurt Daudt
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Daudt,

The Center for Digital Government has reviewed Governor Dayton's proposed investments to improve the state's cybersecurity capabilities and further information technology consolidation, and recommends they be funded.

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory organization focused on the effective use of information and communication technology in state and local government. In support of our mission to identify and share best practices, we conduct the biennial Digital States Survey (DSS) of all 50 states and assign a letter grade to each. Minnesota received a grade of B+ in 2016 and 2014.

A significant majority of the 10 states that ranked above Minnesota in 2016 have already made the move toward greater consolidation of their information technology infrastructure and increased their investment in cyber security.

Our 20 years of experience working with states and conducting the DSS have confirmed the economic and programmatic benefits of consolidation. Cyber security is the top technological issue facing state and local government at present and consolidation makes identifying and implementing a consistent and appropriate enterprise strategy easier and more cost-effective.

The Center has worked closely with the National Conference of State Legislatures to help educate and inform legislators from across the country about the vital role elected officials play in addressing the general risk management issues by appropriately funding cyber security. Increasingly, information and communication technology is providing critical infrastructure within states. It is at the core of transportation, healthcare, public safety, utilities, education and economic development. Keeping these vital program areas strong requires that the underlying systems be secure. We believe legislators have a fiduciary duty to the electorate to make the necessary investments.

For these reasons, we encourage the Minnesota Legislature to look favorably upon Governor Dayton's recommendations and provide the needed funding.

Respectfully Submitted,



Todd Sander
Executive Director
Center for Digital Government