



Joe Norwood, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

Testimony on HB 2331  
To  
The House Committee on Government, Technology and Security

By Joe Norwood  
Secretary  
Kansas Department of Corrections  
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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee;

Thank you for allowing me to appear today in favor of HB 2331. The Kansas Department of Corrections, like all state agencies, deals with highly sensitive data on behalf of those we serve. We have been entrusted with among other things, personnel files, inmate health records, adult and juvenile offender records and security procedures, all of which could pose a serious threat were they to fall into the wrong hands.

The agency is, therefore, very much in favor of the creation of the Kansas Information Security Office. Among the many ways KDOC would benefit from the formation of such an office would be the standardization of IT security practices, the establishment of training programs to enhance our own staff's knowledge and ability to maintain security, and recovery assistance in the event of a security breach.

The agency recognizes that there is not just a financial liability when information security is compromised. We understand that the loss of confidence, the damage to credibility, exacts a toll that cannot be calculated. For an agency tasked with public safety, keeping our data secure is as important as keeping our gates locked and our alarm systems functioning.

I can speak from experience on the importance of data security, because when the U.S. Office of Personnel Management was hacked in 2013-2014, I was among the 21 million federal employees whose personal information was exposed. The cost of that data breach has been estimated at anywhere between \$133 and \$330 million. For my protection I had to sign up for special data-monitoring services, and for the rest of my life, I will forever have to closely monitor my own records.

While there will be a cost involved with upgrading information security, it is my opinion that the State cannot afford to risk the same happening here that happened in that federal agency.

Therefore, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2331 and I stand for questions.