

January 9th, 2018

The Honorable William Coley
Chairman, Government Oversight and Reform Committee
1 Capital Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Coley

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 220, sponsored by Senator Bob Hackett and entitled “Data Protection Act.” This bill will position Ohio as a cyber leader while fostering a business environment that will attract and sustain the high-tech industries necessary to build Ohio’s economic future.

The Data Protection Act represents an innovative approach to driving continuous improvement in Ohio’s cybersecurity posture. The traditional model for enhancing cybersecurity relies on the heavy-handed, inflexible implementation of strict federal regulatory requirements. Facing the stick of federal enforcement, regulated entities spend 100s of thousands – sometimes millions – of dollars to adopt a paperwork and compliance-focused approach to security. While this check-the-box security philosophy may satisfy regulators, it rarely leads to true, lasting improvements in enterprise security.

The Data Protection Act departs from the traditional model by offering organizations qualified liability protection in exchange for disciplined adherence to security best practices. Under the proposed legislation organizations may voluntarily select from a library of qualifying standards, choosing one that best fits their unique size, scope and complexity. This approach replaces the stick of regulatory enforcement with the carrot of liability protection to reward organizations for making lasting security investments.

Not only will this approach incentivize existing Ohio businesses to up their security game, it will also encourage high-tech businesses outside the state to consider increasing their investment in Ohio. I am the CEO of a Maryland-based corporation with offices in Kettering and Cleveland. We are considering a significant Ohio expansion, one that may involve building an advanced datacenter and security operations center within the state. This bill, if passed, would provide my organization with a strong incentive to boost our in-state investment and would support the business case analyses necessary to justify that investment. In these uncertain cyber times, I am confident that other business leaders outside Ohio will also understand the benefit of this bill and will factor this incentive into their own investment decisions.

In closing, the innovative approach provided by the Data Protection Act represents a rare opportunity to both advance Ohio’s cyber security posture while simultaneously improving its business environment and encouraging investment. I strongly support this legislation and hope for a smooth, expeditious passage.

Sincerely,



Waylon Krush
Chief Executive Officer
Lunarline, Inc.