



Chair Fraizer, Vice-Chair Hall, Ranking Minority Member Lightbody, members of the House Technology & Innovation Committee, my name is Tom Hammons and I am VP of Solution Sales for Strategic Systems, a Dublin, OH based Information Technology firm. Please accept this written testimony for HB 230, State Information Technology legislation.

Founded over 17 years ago, Strategic Systems is an Ohio-based certified Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE) and a Minority Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE). Strategic Systems is also on the Ohio State Term Schedule. Strategic Systems employs over 350 individuals and works with over 60 public and private customers partnering with Fortune 50/500/1000 companies as well as government agencies.

Strategic Systems is presently supporting the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. We have supported some of the state's largest systems (including Unemployment, Workforce, Child Welfare, etc.) as a prime or subcontractor.

Given our knowledge of the ODJFS systems, we were one of the first vendors called upon to assist with the Pandemic Unemployment initiatives. In addition to supporting the Unemployment and Workforce systems, Strategic Systems is the ODJFS system integrator for the Unemployment Fraud Prevention implementation and the InnovateOhio Platform integration. We are also part of the team which is replacing the current unemployment system with a SaaS cloud solution.

Road Maps are an effective method of ensuring both enhancements and upgrades are completed promptly to provide the best service to citizens. The Strategic Systems team worked with ODJFS and its partner to simultaneously deliver regulatory requirements and upgrades to Ohio's Child Welfare System, which increased service and reduced maintenance costs. The ODJFS Child Welfare team's multi-year strategic plan included both legislative and technology updates.

Strategic Systems is also part of the team implementing the new JFS Unemployment Insurance cloud solution. Managing fee rates charged for data hosting services and preventing any up charge on services to our state agencies is very important.

From the outset of the unemployment crisis, ODJFS enlisted the best minds in the business to help stabilize and scale up as much as possible in an effort to meet the demand. ODJFS and all the vendors worked together as a team. Best practices from both the public and private sectors were incorporated. Everyone shared a strong sense of personal responsibility for the security of the systems and a duty to uphold public trust.

The State of Ohio collects and stores millions of records containing personal, private, and confidential data and citizens are compelled to provide that data. Citizens expect the security and privacy of government systems to exceed that of private-sector systems. The number, type, and complexity of threats continue to increase, and public institutions struggle to defend against the constantly evolving threats. Organizations of all sizes

struggle to hire and retain qualified cybersecurity and information technology professionals. U. S. cybersecurity professionals must constantly work together to keep everyone safe. A Cyber-Security & Fraud Advisory Council with representation from all statewide offices is an industry best practice.

In the past, a single system could exist for decades. Many state systems follow the information technology, siloed owner-operator model. Traditionally, state leaders would rely on a single vendor for all their enhancements and every 5-10 years go through a procurement process to seek options or continue. Today, change and technology continue to evolve at an increasing rate. Some federal regulations require a modular design to reduce complexity and speed agility. Allowing state leaders to quickly employ the best solutions and multiple vendors would increase service, security, and value.

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My contact information is below should you have any follow-up questions.

Tom Hammons
VP of Solution Sales
614-832-6566