

Madame Chair, Committee members,

I understand you are pressed for time tomorrow afternoon, so I thought I would remove myself from the witness list and file written testimony instead. The VBA supports the passage of H.291. While a lesser known bill than other priorities of the 2023 session, it is an incredibly important one.

The creation of a cyber security advisory council responsible for developing and implementing best practices for protecting systems and data is absolutely critical. State government needs to be more aggressive in addressing cyber security threats and protecting Vermonters data that is collected every day.

Our only caution is, repealing this section of statute in 2026, will not work. The bad guys aren't going to go away, state government will not have solved the challenges by then. Cyber security threats will continue to evolve, thus standards and best practices will need to keep pace. The work is never done.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Chris

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