



May 14, 2017

The Honorable Mary Kiffmeyer  
3103 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Sarah Anderson  
583 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: CCR S.F. 605- MN.IT 2018-2019 Budget**

**Senator Kiffmeyer and Representative Anderson:**

On behalf of the IT Alliance for Public Sector (ITAPS),<sup>1</sup> I am writing to register our concerns with CCR S.F. 605—specifically:

**Section 10 (MN.IT Services)**

ITAPS has long advocated for increased cybersecurity funding in the state of Minnesota and are now writing to register our support for the inclusion of the much-needed information technology (IT) funding as requested by the Minnesota Information Technology Services (MN.IT) for the 2018-2019 budget. These enhancements include a \$14.1 million for securing datacenters and \$8 million for enterprise security program enhancements. Approving this request would allow MN.IT to hire more staff with specialized cybersecurity skills to perform monitoring, remediation, forensics and disaster recovery work. It would also allow for the deployment of sophisticated software to combat increasingly complex attacks and procure services for continuous security monitoring, penetration tests, and independent security audits. We urge your support to include these desperately needed IT infrastructure and cybersecurity improvements in the final budget.

**Section 46 (MN.IT; Performance Outcomes Required)**

While our industry is supportive of achieving reductions in government inefficiencies and overall costs to taxpayers, we are concerned that the language in this section would arbitrarily force applications and storage to the public cloud and could endanger the missions of the agencies impacted and possibly lead to higher costs. We have consistently advocated for ongoing positive disruption and modernization of state IT enterprises through the adoption of innovative solutions such as cloud computing but are concerned that, as written, the proposed language would create too strong of a preference for one technological solution over others. Adopting language reflective of cloud computing as defined in [Special Publication 800-145](#) issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology would encourage agencies to modernize IT while not limiting their ability to acquire the technological solutions that best fit their technical needs. We strongly urge the Legislature to amend Subdivision 2 to strike “public cloud” and replace it with “cloud solution as defined by NIST SP 800-145” **OR** remove Section 46 entirely.

**Conclusion**

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<sup>1</sup> **About the IT Alliance for Public Sector (ITAPS):** As a division of ITI, ITAPS is an alliance of leading technology companies offering the latest innovations and solutions to public sector markets. With a focus on the federal, state and local levels of government, as well as on educational institutions, the ITAPS team advocates for improved procurement policies and practices, while identifying business development opportunities and sharing market intelligence with our industry participants.

In conclusion, we urge your consideration for inclusion into the final budget the necessary funding for IT infrastructure and cybersecurity as well as adopting our proposed cloud language revisions as it will grant agencies the flexibility needed to choose the technology best suited to their technical need. Please contact Jordan Kroll at 202-524-5546 or at [jkroll@itic.org](mailto:jkroll@itic.org), if you wish to discuss further. Thank you for your consideration as the budget negotiations continue.

Sincerely,



Jordan Kroll  
Senior Manager, State, Local, and Education Technology

cc: Governor Mark Dayton  
Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka  
House Speaker Kurt Daudt