

From: Susan Fletcher
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 12:13 PM
To:
Cc: Angela Paxton; Angela Paxton
Subject: HB 1118 - request for lockout provision

Greetings Senator Paxton,

In following HB 1118 by Rep. Gio Capriglione, I just wanted to express my concern over the extensive punitive nature of losing Criminal Justice grants if there's not a 100% compliance in cyber security training. Please consider a "lock-out provision" that would act as a stop-gap for anyone who hasn't completed the training, which would essentially lock any employee OR elected official out of network privileges until they have completed the necessary training. This would still achieve 100% compliance for anyone using the network, and at the same time it would keep critical funding in place for full operations in our courts.

To be quite honest, elected officials are the worst offenders, because they don't have their boss breathing down their necks – and our IT team gets many requests to lessen security measures that some believe are too onerous. However, I'm glad these measures are in place, and fully support staying in compliance. Collin County already has policies in place for non-compliance, which start with revoking internet privileges, and become more restrictive for anyone not completing the mandated training. But overall, I do understand the concerns, as Collin County had a ransomware issue a couple of years ago, and it was a very big deal for our IT team who had to rebuild servers, etc. Thankfully, we didn't pay anything to the criminals and we were able to recover, due to the hard work of our staff.

Hopefully, we can achieve the purpose of this bill through revoking privileges (lock-out provision), rather than removing critical funding for core county functions for any county that doesn't achieve the full 100% compliance. The outcome is what is desired, and I would especially hate to see counties who didn't achieve 100% have to (then) raise their tax rates to cover for something that could be corrected with a less punitive manner.

Thanks for your consideration.

Susan Fletcher

Collin County Commissioner, Precinct 1