

Testimony Prepared for the  
**House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee**  
February 4, 2021  
By: Terry Traynor, NDACo Executive Director



**RE: House Bill 1417 - Support**

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to briefly express the support of counties for House Bill 1417.

County officials, like state officials, recognize the growing concerns of cybersecurity within government. While we are all linked together somehow, state and county governments are inextricably bound through the numerous shared software systems that all ride on the state backbone. One node on this backbone can, and has, affected other nodes.

Counties have the statutory authority to enter into memorandums of agreement with the State, and this legislation would clearly allow NDIT to do likewise. This, county officials believe, is a very appropriate way to approach this emerging risk to government services. By structuring the responsibilities of state and local government in this manner, NDIT and local governing boards will know, upfront, what their obligations and responsibilities will be.

County commissioners view this as a true demonstration of a partnership rather than a mandate, and therefore urge a Do Pass recommendation on House Bill 1417