OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY – 2022 JAN. 18, 2023

This management response to the State Auditor's Office (SAO) performance audit report received December 19, 2022, is coordinated by the State's Chief Information Officer on behalf of the audited entities.

SAO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OBJECTIVES:

The SAO sought to answer this question:

1. Can selected agencies make their IT systems more secure, and better align their IT security practices with leading practices?

SAO Recommendations to the selected state agencies: to protect agency IT systems and the information contained in them, we recommend:

1. Continue remediating vulnerabilities identified during the security testing, starting with those that most significantly affect them.
2. Continue to identify and periodically assess the agency's IT security needs and resources, including personnel and technology, to mature and maintain sufficient security.

STATE RESPONSE:
We agree with the opportunities for improvement identified by the SAO to help protect agency systems and data. We also recognize our responsibility to continue improving state government security and take that duty seriously. As noted in the report, audited agencies have already implemented improvements and will continue to remediate any remaining vulnerabilities. The agencies will also continue to assess and make improvements to IT security needs – including further alignment with leading practices recommended in the CIS controls where appropriate. These controls are more prescriptive than the OCIO IT security standards 141.10 that agencies are required to follow.

The OCIO will use the SAO's findings and observations of this and previous audits to work with all state organizations to better improve the state's security posture.

Action Steps and Time Frame

- Each audited entity will continue to work with their appropriate governing bodies to address and prioritize vulnerabilities, improvements and considerations suggested by the SAO during calendar year 2023 and beyond.