TO: Senate Communications and Technology Committee

FROM: Melissa Anese, Government Relations Associate
                Michael Sage, CIO

DATE: 10/29/2019

RE: **CCAP Comments on SB 810 – Consolidation of State IT Operations**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on Senate Bill 810, which seeks to create a state Office of Information Technology to consolidate the commonwealth's IT functions, on behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), a non-profit, non-partisan association representing the commonwealth's 67 counties.

In the area of technology, CCAP provides a number of county programs including IT assessments which focus on assisting counties with ensuring their technology infrastructure and support are up to industry standards, IT CORE services where counties have access to resources of standard IT policies, and several statewide aggregate agreements including cyber security educational tools. We also provide forums and other support for county IT professionals and GIS professionals.

Counties have multiple interfaces with state databases, including the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE) as well as databases and shared reporting systems with the state across a variety of human services, land use, and other programs. These interfaces must help counties do their jobs, and also protect the data we hold, and it is important to recognize that all of these systemwide cyber security efforts also tie directly into supporting the counties. We have a partnership with the Office of Administration in particular, as well as other agencies such as the Department of State, and continue to build and expand a good working relationship between the commonwealth's IT organization, CCAP and the counties.

With that in mind, counties want to assure that any changes to the state's information technology infrastructure and organization going forward continues to support our collaborative and supportive relationship, as any changes to the state's systems will almost certainly impact the way in which counties interact with those systems and the steps we must take to keep county infrastructure secure. In addition, due to the rise in cyber security incidents, CCAP, counties and state agencies are already working together closely to improve security definitions and implement vital cybersecurity initiatives, including quarterly meetings, an annual cybersecurity conference, a self-assessment security toolkit and other projects.

Given the charge of the proposed Office of Information Technology under SB 810, which includes setting standards, procuring IT resources and facilitating the use of common technology, among other items, we also strongly encourage the General Assembly to add county representation to the Joint Cybersecurity Oversight Committee created under section 4354, which is designed to review and coordinate cybersecurity policies and emerging cybersecurity threats; work that is, as we noted, already taking place. Therefore, it makes sense to prioritize this ongoing relationship between counties and the state and assure that counties have a seat in IT discussions in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We would be happy to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have.