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Chairman Penn, Vice Chair Borjon, and esteemed members of the Legislative Modernization Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear HB 2313, which would ban the artificial intelligence application DeepSeek from all Kansas state networks and equipment. This is not just a precautionary measure—it is a necessary step to safeguard our state’s digital infrastructure, sensitive data, and the privacy of our government employees.

DeepSeek has direct ties to China Mobile, a state-owned telecommunications company. Cybersecurity experts have discovered obfuscated code in DeepSeek’s login process that connects to China Mobile’s infrastructure, raising serious security concerns. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission has already barred China Mobile from operating in the U.S. due to its links to the Chinese government. Kansas must follow suit in protecting its digital assets from potential foreign interference.

Moreover, DeepSeek’s own privacy policy confirms that user data is stored on servers in the People’s Republic of China, meaning it is subject to China’s strict data laws, which require companies to grant government access upon request. Given China’s history of cyber surveillance and data exploitation, allowing DeepSeek on our networks poses an unacceptable risk.

Beyond storage concerns, DeepSeek collects an alarming amount of user data, including chat and search history, keystroke patterns, IP addresses, and even activity from other applications. This invasive data collection extends far beyond typical AI functionality and presents a serious vulnerability if accessed by foreign entities.

DeepSeek’s terms of service further cement these risks, stating that its operations “shall be governed by the laws of the People’s Republic of China.” This means that Kansas users—whether state employees or citizens—would be subject to Chinese law, placing their personal and professional information at the mercy of a foreign government with a well-documented history of cyber threats.

Other states and federal agencies have already acted, blocking access to DeepSeek and launching investigations into its parent companies due to privacy and security concerns. Kansas must do the same.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to ban DeepSeek from all state networks and equipment. We must take a proactive stand to defend our cybersecurity and the privacy of our citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.