April 8, 2021

The Honorable Andy Barr
Lexington District Office
2709 Old Rosebud Rd., Suite 100
Lexington, KY 40509

Re: Strong Support for Kentucky Capital Development Corporation (KCDC)
Community Funding Request

Dear Representative Barr:

I write on behalf of Commonwealth Sentinel to convey our strong support for KCDC's Community Funding request. This funding will enable KCDC and its partners at the City of Frankfort and Franklin County to provide a workforce development program that will train low-income individuals, particularly minorities and women, for careers in the cybersecurity and IT sectors. This training and future employment will help the community and the Commonwealth alleviate poverty, build the middle class, overcome racial economic inequality and reduce the demands on the Unemployment Insurance system.

In Frankfort, we have recently experienced first-hand the online security risks that continue to grow during the pandemic. We also know the challenges in recruiting skilled cybersecurity and IT professionals. The need for individuals capable of securing networks against attackers has never been greater, and education and training opportunities within our community have found it nearly impossible to keep pace with the growing need for cyber talent.

There is a workforce shortage of people who can design secure systems, write safe computer code, and create the tools needed to prevent, detect, mitigate, and reconstitute from damage due to system failures and malicious acts. This program will allow our community to develop new talent pools of minorities and women that have historically been overlooked in these careers.

The KY legislature recently passed House Bill 372 which will offer tax breaks to recruit data centers, thus IT growth will likely boom. While this legislation will help Kentucky compete for high wage jobs, Frankfort and Franklin County do not have the pipeline of cybersecurity and IT workers ready to meet employer needs. This program will help us address that issue.

I ask that you please give the highest consideration to KCDC's Community Funding request. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Vanderoort
Co-Founder/Chief Business Development Officer