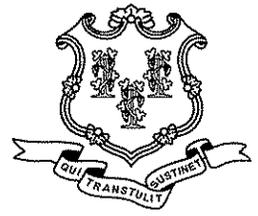




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
**Department of
Information Technology**



**State of Connecticut Department of Information Technology
Chief Information Officer Diane S. Wallace**

**Testimony before the General Law Committee
February 26, 2008**

Chairmen Colapietro and Stone, and Honorable Members of the General Law Committee, I am Diane S. Wallace, Chief Information Officer of the State of Connecticut Department of Information Technology. I thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today in favor of Senate Bill 30, An Act Concerning Consumer Privacy and Identity Theft.

Senate Bill 30 incorporates the recommendations of Governor M. Jodi Rell's Task Force on Identity Theft, an Advisory Board I was proud to serve on. It includes harsher penalties for the theft of personal information, and more avenues of redress for victims, including an expanded statute of limitations to bring legal action, and expanded investigatory powers for the Department of Consumer Protection. The bill also includes new requirements and consumer safeguards to heighten efforts by employers and businesses to protect personal information in its possession.

We support these provisions and believe they are essential steps to heighten protection for State consumers and citizens. While the FBI estimates that nearly 1 million people each year become victims of identity theft, the FTC puts the number closer to 9 million per year! This is a growing crime area.

We must take stronger actions to protect Connecticut citizens from the dangers of identity theft. As the State's lead agency for technology, DOIT has placed security at the top of its strategic priorities. We continue to work strenuously to strengthen enterprise practices protective of informational security and to heighten information security awareness with our customer agencies. We focus on the prevention of identity theft.

In addition to our multi-year coordination of the State HIPAA compliance program, DOIT has invested significantly in our IT security infrastructure to protect the systems in our facility that store and process State data, including upgrades to our State firewall and new intrusion detection and prevention tools.

We have an established security awareness program and website offering tips, best practices and advice for state employees, IT professionals, and the public with online publications on topics including identify theft, cyber-bullying, and more.

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We are also currently leading the effort to encrypt approximately 7000 State laptop computers in accordance with our new statewide security policy governing laptop and mobile computing and storage devices. This policy prohibits the storage of personal information on State laptops, and requires strict accountability measures for any instance in which restricted or confidential data is placed on a mobile device.

These are just a few of our initiatives designed to heighten protections of sensitive data and to raise security awareness. While DOIT, under Governor Rell's leadership, is taking strong actions to prevent identity thefts, we strongly support SB 30 and believe that stronger defenses once crimes have occurred will greatly enhance protections for consumers. We applaud the work of the Governor's Task Force on Identity Theft and ask for your favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Again I thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today and will be happy to answer any questions you might have.