



STATEMENT OF AT&T CONNECTICUT

Regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 671 An Act Concerning Identity Theft Before the Judiciary Committee March 14, 2008

Proposal:

Raised Senate Bill No. 671 seeks to provide greater protection and remedies with respect to the use and disclosure of personal identifying information.

Comments:

AT&T supports the intent of Senate Bill No. 671. Identity theft is a serious problem for both businesses and consumers. In this environment responsible businesses, including AT&T, have been proactive in creating privacy policies which inform consumers about intended uses of personally identifying information. Typically, businesses have responded to information breaches that may have occurred, with appropriate actions such as the prompt disclosure and identity theft protection services provided for in Section 2 of Bill 671. AT&T would suggest that there is value in allowing organizations flexibility to respond to cases of inappropriate disclosure in a manner specifically tailored to the unique situation.

In addition, AT&T has reservations about Section 3. Section 3 would allow a person aggrieved by the negligent, reckless, or unauthorized disclosure of personal identifying information to sue the disclosing party for damages. While the bill provides that the individual bringing suit has the burden of proving that the disclosures caused the damage, it overlooks the fact that damages result from the criminal acts of the thief who misuses the information. AT&T therefore is concerned that by providing a cause of action against the disclosing party, it makes it easier and more attractive to sue that party, rather than to seek redress from the criminal. In so doing, businesses and other organizations could be forced to defend not only a burdensome number of expensive, but ultimately, unwarranted suits. In short, should the committee decide to go forward with this bill, AT&T would appreciate the opportunity to address its concerns.

Conclusion:

AT&T supports the intent of Raised Senate Bill No. 671. Should the committee decide to go forward with this bill, AT&T would appreciate the opportunity to address its concerns.