



STATEMENT OF AT&T CONNECTICUT

Regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 602 An Act Concerning the Use of Social Security Numbers as Required Identification Before the Committee on Energy and Technology February 10, 2009

Proposal:

Raised Senate Bill No. 602 would remove the individual's social security number from the list of items that a public service company must accept as identification of an applicant for service.

Comments:

AT&T respectfully opposes the bill and urges the committee to reject it.

A social security number is the best vehicle for positively identifying an individual and for obtaining credit information. There are considerable upfront costs for establishing services. Accurate identification of potential customers is essential if the investment is to be recouped. It also prevents identity theft by making it more difficult for someone to fraudulently establish an account in another person's name.

AT&T recognizes that social security numbers, if not assiduously protected, can contribute to identity theft of its customers. Companies obtaining social security numbers from customers must be prepared to take great care to protect the information from disclosure. AT&T takes this responsibility seriously.

Finally, while AT&T is a public service company, it faces vigorous competition for its services. Yet not all competitors will be subject to the same restrictions.

Conclusion:

If investment in the infrastructure and technology necessary to provide innovative services is to be encouraged, companies must be permitted to use the most effective tools to positively identify and obtain accurate credit history regarding individuals who apply for service. Competitors also must be subject to the same restrictions.