

Testimony
Education Committee Public Hearing
March 19, 2015
Regarding: Bill 7017 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT DATA

I am taking the time to express my concerns about the excessive amount of data that is collected on my children at school as it is an outrageous intrusion on my Right to Privacy as protected under the US Constitution.

I work in the field of technology and computer systems and understand only too well that the protection of personal information, childhood test scores, and other RTI or IEP data that may be inputted by teachers or students into a district wide data storage system is not as protected as one would like to believe and that emerging advances in technology are likely to look very different from what are in place today.

Although this bill begins to address some of the data collection concerns, it does not go far enough.

This legislation needs to address the lack of transparency in regards to data collection of students and family personal individual information (PII).

Parents should be informed as to what data is being collected on their children; where that data is being stored; who has access to that data; and they should be given the option of not allowing ANY data to be collected.

Additionally, this bill does not address the privacy concerns of P20-WIN. Although, I do not think any government should be following and collecting data on people from preschool through age 20 - at the very least, every parent and/or person over the age of 18 should be told what P20-WIN is and asked if they want to participate in P20-WIN. They should be given a form stating all the data collected and the form should state that the parent or adult over 18 gives permission to participate in P20-WIN.

I do not understand why it is necessary for the state and federal government to have access to such previously-protected personal and confidential information. I trust that you will agree with me in that I am entitled to protect the privacy of personal and confidential information on myself and members of my family. I hope that you will continue to work vigorously to protect my constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

Jason B. Bestor
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