

Cheryl Hill  
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Testimony in **OPPOSITION TO HB 5469**  
An Act Concerning Student Data Privacy

Greetings Representative Fleischmann, Representative Slosserg and distinguished members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to HB 5469, An Act Concerning Student Data Privacy.

This testimony is on behalf of myself, as a CT parent, tax payer and voter.

As a parent my **first priority is the safety of my child**. I have the expectation that my child will be safe at school. I welcome creative modules that complement the academic experience. **However, they must first be-safe.**

During the last year, I have gained a better understanding of the technology already being used in the classroom- what data is collected, with whom it is shared or “provided access”, how it is and/or may be used, stored and the lack of protections in place. Breaches are all too common.

Today’s technology, operating on “adaptive platforms”, collect information in real time. Information is collected, analyzed, stored and *is* being used as a commodity. This information can be **personally identifiable (ssn, dob...)**, exist in a life-long data base and be accessible to multiple government agencies, vendors and third parties. Misuse is all too common.

Today’s meta data is unprecedented in sensitivity and exists without adequate protections, including HIPPA. Behavioral and psychological profiles can be assimilated **with personal identities attached**. This information can be inaccurate, damaging and self-incriminating. It could be used in ways that discriminate and limit future life opportunities. Privacy invasion with high stakes consequences.

**Simply, this is not “safe”**

**HB 5469 does not make the use of technology in school safe.** Rather, it favors the vendors and contractors. The interests of the technology marketplace should have no voice on this bill. There are substantial conflicts and child safety should and must come before dollars. **Our children’s data is a commodity, their safety is not.**

Only when the Education Committee can put forth a bill that ensures child safety, can technology be ethically and responsibly brought into the classroom. Such a bill would:

- 1) Recognize that the child and **parent own the data**.
- 2) Obtain **informed consent PRIOR to data collection**.
- 3) Have **real and compensatory penalties** for entities that violate robust privacy laws.

**HB 5469 does none of the above.**

CT children deserve at least the same protections as children in other states. They deserve a data privacy protection bill that is actually about protecting them. **Please vote "no" on HB 5469**

Thank you,  
Cheryl Hill