



Testimony of Eric Brown
Before the
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 25, 2019

HB-1108 An Act Concerning Consumer Privacy

CBIA opposes this bill

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as vice president for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents thousands of businesses, large and small, throughout the state of Connecticut with the majority of our members having fewer than 25 employees.

CBIA appreciates this committee's interest protecting internet consumer privacy. However, we see several major flaws with HB-1108 as written, that would be detrimental to Connecticut businesses.

Small businesses – many with razor thin margins, that host even just a few dozen customers a day would be subjected to expensive and otherwise overly-burdensome requirements of this proposal. As we understand the bill, a small coffee shop, restaurant or hardware store or that accepts even a modest online payment from a Connecticut resident would be held accountable for compliance with this bill.

Additionally, the severe penalties associated with even a single violation could cripple a small- or even mid-sized business.

SB 1108 mirrors the California Consumer Privacy Act, or CCPA. The legislation also has many shortcomings. The CCPA, and consequently SB 1108, demonstrate that a state-by-state 'quick fix' is not the way to approach consumer privacy. Instead, federal lawmakers should craft a careful and comprehensive policy that ensures transparency and protects against data misuse.

Accordingly, CBIA urges this committee to not favorably report this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and your consideration of our position.