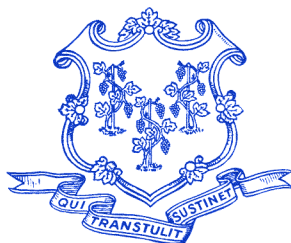


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**State of Connecticut**

**SENATE**

**Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff**  
**Testimony in Support of Proposed Senate Bill 156 and Raised Senate Bill 893:**  
**General Law Committee**  
**February 25, 2021**

Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino, Senator Witkos, Representative Rutigliano and distinguished members of the General Law Committee, I would like to thank you today for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 156 and Senate Bill 893 both entitled, *An Act Concerning Consumer Privacy*.

As I testified in front of this committee a year ago, our state is in dire need of modernizing our consumer privacy protection laws to address the unprecedented business practice of widespread personal data collection and distribution. In the past several years, we have witnessed an ominous trend of large companies across the nation gathering and sharing sensitive consumer data, often without the knowledge of the consumers themselves.

From personal data like names, addresses and political opinions, to biometric data like fingerprints and eye retinas, there are virtually no bounds restricting the information that companies seek to acquire. These companies proceed to sell this information to the highest bidder, all behind the back of the consumer. As we have seen recently in national events, our personal information is not just gathered for targeted advertising; it can also be used to locate, manipulate and radicalize Americans.

Furthermore, when companies do not properly protect and secure this information, our data can and will fall into the hands of bad actors, putting our financial and personal security in jeopardy. Just two months ago, tech industry experts discovered a massive data breach by malicious Russian hackers, who broke into the networks of numerous U.S Federal Agencies and thousands of private businesses by exploiting a single weakness in the widely used SolarWinds software. As national privacy legislation may be years away, it is up to us, on behalf of consumers in Connecticut, to devise and implement legislation that can protect and provide recourse in the event of cybersecurity breaches such as this one.

To tackle the pressing issue of consumer privacy, Senate Bills 156 and 893 should arm Connecticut consumers with three crucial rights. First, companies should be required to notify their clients of the planned collection of any personal information. Second, consumers should have the right to access and delete their personal information gathered by a company, as well as opt-out of the sale of their information to third parties.

Finally, the third right granted by this legislation should equip Connecticut consumers with a private right to action; the ability to pursue legal recourse against companies that violate privacy laws or fail to protect their clients' personal information. By allowing our residents to hold companies legally accountable when their information is exploited or held with negligence, we will make Connecticut one of the leading states in consumer privacy.

I thank the committee for your time and ask that you give these bills a favorable report. I look forward to working with you as these bills move forward.