

Testimony of Tom Swan
Executive Director, Connecticut Citizen Action group (CCAG)

Before the General Law Committee on

S.B. 893 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY

February 25, 2021

Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino and other members of the General Law Committee my name is Tom Swan, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group. On behalf of our thousands of member families I want to commend you for raising S.B. 893 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY. This is an extremely important issue and is getting even more important by the day.

It is essential that consumers gain greater control of their data and that there is greater accountability when corporations violate their rights.

A poll commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trust showed that over 60% of Americans believe they can't get through their daily lives without having their data collected and approximately 80% feel they have little or no control over the data and fear the risks outweigh the benefit. It is clear consumer are looking for you to act.

We realize this is a very challenging law to craft and there will be very powerful interest fighting real reforms. We look forward to working with you to advance the strongest protections possible. Towards this end we urge you shape the final legislation taking the important underpinnings:

- 1) Do no harm. We shared the Attorney General's belief that this bill should be consistent with their proposed updates to the Data Breach Notice Statute. We also worry about the right to cure provision gives companies a pass.
- 2) Provide maximum transparency to consumers on how their data is collected, used, and stored.
- 3) Make any opt-in or opt-out as easy as possible for consumers and that the policies on how their data will be used, shared, and stored be explained in simplest terms and in regular interims.
- 4) Prohibit any pay for privacy provisions.
- 5) Require companies to allow consumers to move data between services.

Thank you once again for raising this important legislation and we look forward to working with you to protect consumers.