

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representatives Pallone, Walden, Schakowsky, and McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge your support of a comprehensive federal privacy law that establishes a consistent framework across the country and applies technology-neutral protections across the Internet ecosystem.

The Internet has transformed nearly every aspect of Americans' daily lives and has completely reshaped the global economy. It has revolutionized how businesses and consumers interact; how teachers and parents help children learn and achieve; and how seniors and the disability community live and communicate. The Internet is also solving some of the greatest economic and social challenges of our times, including creating cross-sector jobs, advancing medical connectivity, and improving access to education.

With these benefits, among many others, the protection of privacy is an expectation. Privacy is an issue of such magnitude that any legislation addressing it must protect all Americans, no matter the technology or the location of the individual. Borders do not limit the boundless benefits of the Internet—likewise, privacy protection cannot be constrained by borders that may present inconsistent standards and regulation.

It is imperative that consumers understand and be offered reasonable control over how their data, especially sensitive data, will be collected and used. Clear and transparent rules will allow consumers to easily and fully understand what data is being collected and used and for what purpose.

Equally as important, federal privacy legislation must not stifle innovation and the beneficial uses of data. The future use of data, such as with the Internet of Things, has the potential to bring about new opportunities for Americans of all walks of life. As connected communities aim to leap forward, it is crucial that any federal privacy law enables data-driven innovations—and the entrepreneurs of tomorrow—to flourish.

Our country is on the verge of another technological breakthrough that will continue to positively transform American lives, empowering and enabling economic and civic engagement. Now more than ever, it is important that Congress implement a national privacy law to provide strong, consistent protections for consumers wherever they are and on whichever platform they use.

Sincerely,

Steve Pociask
President and CEO
American Consumer Institute

Tom Schatz
President
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Christopher Wood
Executive Director and Co-Founder
LGBT Technology Institute & Partnership

Maurita Coley
President and CEO
Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council

Harry C. Alford
President and CEO
National Black Chamber of Commerce

Helen L. Holton
Executive Director
National Organization of Black County Officials

Ken Lee
Chief Executive Officer
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Jose Marquez-Leon
CEO and President
TechLatino