



February 3, 2022

House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Neutral Testimony on HB4017

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and members of the committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights with more than 28,000 members statewide.

The ACLU of Oregon takes no position on HB 4017 to require data brokers operating in the state of Oregon to register. We have not been able to review the latest amendment before the committee with the level of review needed by this legislation and so remain neutral.

The ACLU of Oregon strongly believes that Oregon's consumers deserve effective tools to monitor how their personal information – including information about health, finances, location, politics, religious, sexual orientation, buying habits, and more – is being collected and disclosed.

Data brokers are already engaged in the widespread buying, selling, and trading of personal information obtained from mobile phones, banks, social media sites, and stores. Too often our personal information is used in unexpected and potentially harmful ways, including in ways that each of us do not know about or would consent to. For example, Americans have lost jobs and been denied mortgages when data brokers shared incorrect information, and scammers have used data broker lists to target vulnerable populations like senior citizens and communities of color. Regulation to protect data is needed.

HB 4017 is an attempt to require data brokers – business entities that collect and sell or license data – to register with the state. This is only one small piece and there are many other important steps needed to protect consumers' privacy, especially with the increasingly high levels of personal information being gathered, bought, sold, and traded in our digital age.

ACLU of Oregon looks forward to continuing the conversation on data and consumer privacy.

Respectfully,

Sandy Chung
Executive Director
ACLU of Oregon
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