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On Behalf Of:  
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2467

As citizens of Oregon, we hold our privacy rights in the highest regard, recognizing that these rights are essential for preserving our autonomy, dignity, and psychological well-being. HB 2467, while seemingly aimed at advancing certain regulatory goals, poses a significant threat to the privacy rights of individuals, and by extension, to their mental health. This bill's provisions could lead to increased government surveillance, invasive data collection, and potential misuse of personal information, all of which could have devastating effects on both privacy and mental health in Oregon.

### Privacy as a Fundamental Right

The right to privacy is a cornerstone of individual freedom, enshrined in both the Oregon Constitution and the broader U.S. legal framework. As the Oregon Supreme Court affirmed in *Oregon v. Cook* (1980), individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy, especially concerning personal and sensitive information. This right is not just about shielding oneself from governmental intrusion but also about protecting one's autonomy and mental well-being. The essence of privacy is the ability to control who knows what about us and to safeguard our personal and intimate details from unnecessary exposure.

HB 2467 directly challenges these fundamental rights. By potentially expanding the scope of data collection or surveillance without sufficient safeguards, the bill would significantly erode Oregonians' expectations of privacy. This erosion of privacy undermines the principle that individuals should have control over their personal information, particularly sensitive health data, which is at the heart of many mental health concerns.

### The Mental Health Impact of Privacy Violations

When privacy is compromised, the psychological impact can be severe. Studies have shown that breaches of privacy, particularly in the context of sensitive health or personal data, can lead to anxiety, depression, and feelings of vulnerability. The *Journal of Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking* (Young, 2017) reports that individuals who feel their personal information is being misused or collected without consent experience heightened stress and anxiety. These conditions are exacerbated for individuals struggling with mental health issues, where any potential exposure of personal data can intensify feelings of stigma, judgment, and insecurity.

Moreover, when individuals perceive that their privacy is under threat, they are less likely to seek necessary services, including mental health care. Research from the American Psychological Association (2018) confirms that concerns about data privacy and confidentiality prevent individuals from seeking mental health treatment or disclosing vital information to healthcare providers. For Oregonians, where mental health concerns are already prevalent, HB 2467 could discourage people from seeking the help they need, exacerbating existing mental health challenges.

### The Right to Be Forgotten: A Critical Consideration

HB 2467, by expanding data collection and potentially allowing for data retention and sharing, raises serious concerns regarding individuals' rights to control their personal data. The concept of the "right to be forgotten," as championed by European Union regulations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), recognizes that individuals should be able to request the deletion of their personal data from public records. This is crucial for protecting mental health, as individuals should have the ability to manage how their data is used and who can access it.

In Oregon, the lack of a similar comprehensive framework to govern the retention and deletion of personal data means that HB 2467 could expose individuals to long-term risks related to their personal information being held indefinitely by governmental or third-party entities. This creates a scenario where citizens lose control over their personal n