

Submitter: Christina Shew
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1587

SB 1587 addresses a real and growing problem: the ability of data brokers to buy, aggregate, and resell people's personal data at scale often with little transparency. This creates pathways for sensitive information to be used in ways that can harm individuals and families. SB 1587 draws a clear boundary by prohibiting data brokers from providing brokered personal data when they have reason to believe it will be used for civil law enforcement purposes, while still allowing disclosures when made pursuant to a court order.

Why SB 1587 is important:

1) It closes a dangerous loophole.

Even when government access to private information is supposed to require court oversight, commercially purchased data can bypass that safeguard. SB 1587 helps ensure that when personal data is used for enforcement actions, it happens through a process that includes judicial review, not simply through a purchase order.

2) It reduces risks of targeting and abuse.

Brokered personal data can reveal intimate details—like location patterns, family connections, and daily routines. Limiting access in the enforcement context reduces the chances that people are tracked, pressured, or swept into enforcement actions based on data that may be inaccurate, outdated, or contextless.

3) It creates meaningful accountability.

SB 1587 includes enforcement through civil penalties and a civil cause of action. That matters because without consequences, "privacy rules" often become symbolic. This bill gives the state and harmed individuals real tools to deter violations.

Addressing likely concerns

Some may worry about impacts on legitimate investigations. SB 1587 does not eliminate access to information when justified, it preserves the option to obtain data through court orders, which is the appropriate safeguard when the stakes involve people's rights and safety. If enforcement needs the data, it can still be sought through due process rather than commercial purchase.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote YES on SB 1587 and move it forward.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Oregon.