

ConnPIRG  
Common Sense  
Consumer Federation of America  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)  
U.S. PIRG

7 June 2021

RE: Support Senator Duff's Amendment to the Privacy Bill, SB 893

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We urge you to approve the [amendment](#) to SB 893 proposed by Senator Bob Duff in order to provide effective privacy protection for your constituents. The original bill is nearly identical to the legislation that was enacted earlier this year in Virginia and which has the dubious distinction of being the worst privacy law in the nation. Senator Duff's amendment, on the contrary, would provide real privacy protections for Connecticut residents and make Connecticut a national leader on privacy.

SB 893 as first written would have allowed businesses to collect, use and sell consumers' personal data with few limits or individual controls. It contained so many loopholes that the rights it did provide to consumers would not apply to many types of businesses and personal data. It would have allowed companies such as Facebook and Google to continue their relentless tracking and profiling of individuals unfettered.

Furthermore, it would have allowed businesses to unfairly discriminate against consumers by charging higher prices or providing them with inferior products or services if they exercised their privacy rights. It also gave businesses a "right to cure," essentially permitting them to violate the law with impunity if they simply promise not to do it again. This concept came from the first California privacy law and is not in the new law that will replace it in 2023.

Senator Duff's proposed amendment to SB 893 provides real, meaningful privacy reforms. It covers most types of businesses and personal data and gives consumers strong privacy rights. It would ensure that individuals are not discriminated against because of their personal characteristics or for exercising their rights. It would create a privacy commission to provide guidance to businesses and take enforcement action.

SB 893 as originally written would have provided the illusion of privacy without actually providing meaningful privacy protection for residents of the Constitution State. Because of its many unnecessary exceptions and exclusions it would have been confusing for

businesses and consumers. Senator Duff's proposal is comprehensive, clear and straightforward. Our organizations strongly support it and urge you to enact it into law. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ed Mierzwinski of ConnPIRG's national office, U.S. PIRG ([edm@pirg.org](mailto:edm@pirg.org)) or Susan Grant of the Consumer Federation of America ([sgrant@consumerfed.org](mailto:sgrant@consumerfed.org)).

Sincerely,

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