



TO: Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

RE: Opposition to HB 2581

The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) is a membership organization representing the entire continuum of information technology companies, from small information technology (IT) service providers and software developers to large equipment manufacturers and communications service providers. Our members are at the leading edge of work to protect consumer data and facilitate secure and efficient payment processing. Not only does our industry work to protect consumer data at every turn, but we also lead the way in empowering consumers directly with the tools they need to protect their information. Based on our long record of leadership in data security, **we urge you to oppose HB 2581.**

HB 2581 aims to solve an important problem with the wrong approach. Providing the strongest possible protections for consumer information requires the development and implementation of effective and workable technologies to secure data and respond quickly to breaches. HB 2581 does nothing to incentivize that process, instead punting the problem to costly litigation that will ultimately cost businesses and consumers.

Targeting gross negligence will not help the vast majority of industry that work diligently to protect consumer data and build strong data security systems. Instead, it will divert resources that should be available to improve data security to defend against abundant new lawsuits. This will not benefit consumers, protect their personal information, or prevent breaches. It will only cost consumers more and make it harder for the many businesses striving to adapt to emerging data security threats to serve their consumers.

Moreover, our industry already does and will continue to do work to strengthen data security for all consumers. We have developed technologies that businesses can use to secure their data, provided IT support to businesses to choose and implement their data security systems, and supported research and innovation to offer better strategies to businesses and consumers for protecting their information. We are proud of this work and it continues to be a top priority for our industry.

We share the goal of protecting consumers from data breaches and we will continue to do our part to make this goal a reality. Continued education, training, and innovation are necessary ingredients of 21st century data security, and CompTIA members will continue to do our part. HB 2581 is not the solution, and we urge the Committee to vote no on HB 2581 and keep the focus on efforts like ours.