



**TO: Chair Jennifer Williamson and Members of House Rules Committee**

**RE: Urge NO Vote on HB 4155**



On behalf of the broad technology industry and our retail partners and utilizers, we urge your NO vote on HB 4155 and proposed amendments. Consumers benefit by keeping a single, uniform set of privacy obligations governing broadband data and the open internet. We respectfully urge you not to adopt new state requirements that will likely confuse consumers who should be able to rely on clear, uniform privacy protections across the Internet. HB 4155 with proposed amendments opens the door to the creation of a patchwork of state regulations, expressly prohibited by the FCC.



We acknowledge that with the recent actions at the federal level, you may have concerns regarding consumers' Internet privacy and net neutrality. First and foremost, our member companies take their consumers' privacy concerns very seriously, and we believe consumers expect consistent privacy protections to apply to their data, regardless of the type of company that holds it. Additionally, we continue to support an open internet where companies do not block, throttle, or otherwise interfere with the customers' ability to access the content of their choosing from the device of their choosing. We believe these standards should apply, regardless of the type of internet company providing the services.



Rushing, especially in a short session, to implement new, onerous regulations is not in the best overall interest of the consumer and potentially puts the state at risk for costly litigation. The measure and amendments have not been fully vetted, and the potential for unintended consequences is high, especially given how complicated the issues are and the protracted time frame we face. The likelihood of unique, diverse and varying rules among states on these issues, is a formula for confusion for both providers and the public. Uncertainty in the internet environment could create inconsistency in the internet experiences for different customers in different states and could result in unintended access issues and a hesitancy toward innovations. We support a bipartisan approach to Federal legislation that will address any state concerns and ensure a balanced outcome for all stakeholders.



Understandably, states want to ensure privacy and an open internet for consumers, but even under FCC Chairmen Wheeler, the FCC preempted state regulation of broadband in the 2015 Open Internet Order. We believe you will see that the internet experience of customers will not be dramatically altered by the new order. The internet has been jurisdictionally interstate since its beginning, and we believe it should continue to operate only under federal regulation as outlined in the current order, which broadly preempts states from regulating the internet.



**PLEASE JOIN US IN VOTING NO ON HB 4155 AND THE -4 AMENDMENTS.**



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