

February 19, 2019

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FR: Charlie Fisher, State Director, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)
RE: Support of HB 2395

OSPIRG is a statewide, citizen-based organization that represents thousands of Oregonians.

OSPIRG supports HB 2395.

When consumers purchase devices that can connect wirelessly to the internet or other devices, they should be able to trust that the manufacturer of those devices has prioritized security. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case.

For example, there have been numerous instances of Wi-Fi enabled cameras, even baby monitors, being hacked. Similarly, a children's doll, My Friend Cayla, highlighted by OSPIRG in a 2017 toy safety reportⁱ has both hacking and data collection concerns, which prompted the Germany to ban its sale and prompted many retailers to pull it from their store shelves. My Friend Cayla is a "smart doll" intended to interact with and respond to children four and up. Unfortunately, this doll has two significant problems:

1. The doll has an unsecure Bluetooth connection that does not require a password to connect, meaning that the doll can function as a remote Bluetooth headset, speaker or microphone on any Bluetooth-enabled device, without downloading and using the doll's companion app.
2. When the doll is connected to its companion smartphone app, it sends the contents of the conversation to two companies, Genesis, the manufacturer, and Nuance a voice recognition company.

While this toy by itself is problematic regardless of any security issue, **at the very least companies should be required to ensure devices aren't susceptible to hacking and that the information collected is secured.**

For consumers, when security lapses in internet-enabled devices occur, the consequence shouldn't simply be public outrage and a promise to do better next time. Instead, companies should be required to proactively design their products with security in mind. That's why we support HB 2395, a commonsense piece of legislation that would require companies to equip their devices with reasonable security features and hold them accountable if they don't.

ⁱ Trouble in Toyland, U.S. PIRG,
<https://uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/USP%20Toyland%20Report%20Nov17%20Web.pdf>