

October 12, 2023

Dear honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Anna Siegel, and I live in Yarmouth, Maine. I am writing today as a student and concerned citizen to testify in **support** of LD 1977, An Act to Create the Data Privacy and Protection Act. I am also writing in **opposition** to LD 1973, An Act to Enact the Maine Consumer Privacy Act.

I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1977 and “not ought to pass” on LD 1973. Rep. O’Neil’s bill, LD 1977, provides important protections that currently do not exist in Maine or federal law. LD 1973 should be rejected because it is written by industry lobbyists to maintain their current practices, not to protect consumers.

Data privacy is essential for the health, security, and safety of Maine citizens. As a young LGBTQ+ woman, I am keenly aware that information about my identity and health could be exploited by corporations and unknown entities to target me and others in similar communities. The rights of women and queer individuals are increasingly under attack, and unregulated data-mining compounds these issues by giving sensitive information to third parties. This information could be used to further limit bodily autonomy and free choice. For example, a January 2021 Norwegian Consumer Council report found that the dating app OkCupid was sharing users' location and information about their sexual desires, political views, and ethnicity with third parties, while Tinder was sharing users' gender preferences.

I urge the committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1977 and “not ought to pass” on LD 1973 to defend our right to privacy and protect our future. Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Siegel
Yarmouth
LD 1977

October 12, 2023

Dear honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Anna Siegel, and I live in Yarmouth, Maine. I am writing today as a student and concerned citizen to testify in support of LD 1977, An Act to Create the Data Privacy and Protection Act. I am also writing in opposition to LD 1973, An Act to Enact the Maine Consumer Privacy Act.

I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1977 and “not ought to pass” on LD 1973. Rep. O’Neil’s bill, LD 1977, provides important protections that currently do not exist in Maine or federal law. LD 1973 should be rejected because it is written by industry lobbyists to maintain their current practices, not to protect consumers.

Data privacy is essential for the health, security, and safety of Maine citizens. As a young LGBTQ+ woman, I am keenly aware that information about my identity and health could be exploited by corporations and unknown entities to target me and others in similar communities. The rights of women and queer individuals are increasingly under attack, and unregulated data-mining compounds these issues by giving sensitive information to third parties. This information could be used to further limit bodily autonomy and free choice. For example, a January 2021 Norwegian Consumer Council report found that the dating app OkCupid was sharing users' location and information about their sexual desires, political views, and ethnicity with third parties, while Tinder was sharing users' gender preferences.

I urge the committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1977 and “not ought to pass” on LD 1973 to defend our right to privacy and protect our future. Thank you for your consideration.