



Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Testimony on Privacy Legislation

May 23, 2023

Good morning, chairs, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Kate Gore, Director of State Government Affairs in Maine for Charter Communications. I am submitting testimony on the numerous privacy bills that the committee will be considering today.

Charter has been an active partner with Maine in providing broadband services to 295 communities in the state serving 466,000 customers, and we employ over 750 Maine residents. We are committed to expanding broadband services in Maine. In 2022 the company invested more than \$73 million dollars in technology and infrastructure and expanded the reach of our network to over 10,000 homes and businesses. In March Charter announced an additional \$82 million dollar investment which will build on an already established and robust network across the state.

Charter values and relies on the trust and loyalty of its more than 32 million residential and business customers. Our network provides competitively priced high-speed broadband, video, voice and mobile services to neighborhoods of all types, from large cities to small towns and rural areas, from Fortune 100 customers to small in-home businesses across the country.

Ensuring that the privacy of our customers is protected is very important to us and Charter appreciates the Committee holding this hearing to focus on these issues. We also appreciate the developing dialogue among businesses and consumer groups, think tanks and others who have begun to examine potential approaches to protecting the privacy and security of consumers' personal information online.

Consumers Need a Comprehensive Online Privacy Framework

As you know, continuing advances in technology are changing the online privacy landscape. Despite Americans' daily reliance on websites, apps and social media, it can be difficult for consumers to understand and appreciate how companies are collecting, analyzing, using and selling information about them.

An increasingly critical aspect of ensuring that consumers will continue to use our services and the multitude of offerings on the internet is making sure they have confidence that their online

to protect against unauthorized access to personal data and ensure that these safeguards keep pace with technological development.

Conclusion

As we begin to engage in complex conversations about what happens to data online and the vulnerabilities that develop when online data goes unprotected, we want to reiterate that Charter believes that consumers today and, in the future, deserve to have the ability to control how their information is collected and used whenever they use the internet, and wherever they go online.

We thank the Members of the Committee for the opportunity to share comments and look forward to continuing to work with you as you consider how Maine is best able to protect personal data for consumers.