



Legislative Testimony
765 Asylum Avenue, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-523-9146
www.acluct.org

Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 5429, An Act Concerning Minors and Digital Privacy, and House Bill 6393, An Act Establishing Additional Data Privacy Protections for Minors

Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino, Ranking Members Cicarella and Rutigliano, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of House Bill 5429, An Act Concerning Minors and Digital Privacy, and House Bill 6393, An Act Establishing Additional Data Privacy Protections for Minors.

The ACLU-CT believes in expanding the right to privacy, increasing the control that people have over their personal information, and ensuring that civil liberties are enhanced rather than compromised by technology. Technological advancements are making it easier for both governments and corporations to surveil and learn the minutiae of our online lives. Corporations collect this data and sell it to third parties.¹ This can have devastating implications for our privacy rights, especially when children are accessing the Internet at younger and younger ages. At the same time, there are few regulations controlling what these corporations can do with our data, which includes sensitive information like political affiliation, religion, race, and medical histories. This data can be used by corporations and the government against already marginalized populations, like women, justice-impacted people, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and young people.²

¹ See, e.g., *Big Data*, ACLU (accessed Feb. 27, 2023), <https://www.aclu.org/issues/privacy-technology/surveillance-technologies/big-data>; Brian X. Chen *The Battle for Digital Privacy is Reshaping the Internet*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 16, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/16/technology/digital-privacy.html>.

² See, e.g., *Civil Rights Principles for the Era of Big Data*, LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS (Feb. 27, 2014), <https://civilrights.org/2014/02/27/civil-rights-principles-era-big-data/>.

House Bill 5429 and House Bill 6393 both address and seek to limit the mining of children's data and their overall privacy protections online. The ACLU-CT supports efforts to cull back the invasion of big data on our right to privacy. People should have meaningful control over how a corporation uses their data and with whom it shares that data. We hope to see greater specificity as to what privacy safeguards will be put in place. The ACLU-CT supports the concepts of House Bill 5429 and House Bill 6393, and urges this Committee to do the same.