

OHIO BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON H.B. 376

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 376, the Ohio Personal Privacy Act. On behalf of the Ohio Business Roundtable (OBRT), I am testifying as a proponent of this legislation.

By way of background, OBRT is comprised of over 90 presidents and CEOs of Ohio's top companies, 70 of which are headquartered in the state and one third of which are Fortune 1000 companies. Collectively, our members employ nearly 500,000 Ohioans and generate a revenue totaling over \$1.2 trillion.

Data privacy is a critical component to modern business practices. As our world has become increasingly digital, it is clear that we must pursue greater data privacy and data security measures to protect individuals, communities and businesses alike. The Ohio Personal Privacy Act would establish a baseline standard for Ohio businesses through a sensible model for improving companies' consumer data standards, while at the same time not being overly burdensome or complex.

At the present moment, there is no national standard that exists for regulating the collection and use of personal information. Our members applaud Representatives Carfagna and Hall, along with Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, for their leadership in attempting to not only establish a statewide standard for data privacy in Ohio, but also create a law that can serve as a national model that other states will look to mirror.

The Ohio Business Roundtable supports the overarching goal of providing a sensible but firm model for helping businesses protect Ohioan's private data. Furthermore, H.B. 376 incorporates an important provision that prevents private right of action. In other words, someone could not bring a lawsuit against a company individually, but rather the Ohio Attorney General is given the responsibility to keep the bad actors in check. This prevents a rash of frivolous lawsuits against businesses from filling up courts across the state.

We believe this bill is a win for Ohioans on a personal level, too. It makes it easier for Ohioans to know how businesses intend to use their data, gives consumers the ability to request copies of their online data that has been collected, and gives individuals the opportunity to opt out of having their information sold. Ohioans would also be able to ask for their data to be deleted or corrected.

The Ohio Personal Privacy Act is a giant step forward in giving Ohioans more control over their digital presence, while also establishing clear and concise standards for data collection for Ohio companies to follow. If passed by the Ohio General Assembly, Ohioans will gain peace of mind as they continue to access the global economy in the palm of their hand, and businesses will be better equipped to protect the valuable information of consumers.

Chairman Wilkin and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michael McLean
Vice President of Policy
Ohio Business Roundtable