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March 28, 2024

The Honorable Jacquelyn Baginski, Chair
House Innovation, Internet, and Technology Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 7787 – Data Transparency and Privacy Protection Act

Dear Chair Baginski and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on HB 7787, comprehensive data privacy legislation.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance

Our member companies place a high priority on consumer privacy. The technology industry is fully committed to securing privacy and security for consumers and engages in a wide range of practices to provide consumers with notice, choices about how their data is used, as well as control over their data. TechNet supports a federal standard that establishes a uniform set of rights and responsibilities for all Americans. The global nature of data demands a federal policy, and even the most well-designed state statute will ultimately contribute to a patchwork of different standards across the country, resulting in steep compliance costs and consumer confusion.

In the absence of a nationwide standard, however, interoperability with existing state laws is paramount. HB 7787 that largely tracks those that have passed in fourteen other states, including Delaware, Connecticut, and most recently, New Hampshire. Like other comprehensive data laws before it, HB 7787 establishes a

set of consumer rights and controller responsibilities in the processing and use of personal data.

The rules are clear and explicit: consumers can understand their rights and how to avail themselves of them; companies understand how to comply; and the state's Attorney General is empowered to seek redress if companies fail to do so.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope the Committee advances this legislation and Rhode Island can join leading peer states in establishing clear and actionable data privacy protections for their residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director, Northeast
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