



**House Judiciary Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly**

**April 24, 2025
Testimony in favor of House Bill 5361**

Chair Craven and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Representative Felix's H.B. 5361. My name is David Iglesias, and I am the State Government Affairs Associate at Libertas Institute, a non-profit think tank based in Utah. We've conducted extensive research on Fourth Amendment privacy in the digital age to help educate policymakers across the country.

We live in a time of incredible technological innovation, but many of these advancements rely on collecting sensitive personal data—such as location information, communications, biometric data, and more. This highly revealing data has become a valuable tool for law enforcement. In fact, Providence police have an entire unit dedicated to accessing cellphone data which they refer to as [“modern-day DNA”](#).

Both the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 6 of the Rhode Island Constitution protect against warrantless searches. While courts [recognize](#) that police need a warrant to access personal devices, a major loophole remains: law enforcement can bypass the warrant requirement by requesting the same information from third-party providers like Google, Amazon, or Verizon.

H.B. 5361 closes this loophole by applying consistent warrant standards to electronic data held by third parties—safeguarding privacy while ensuring police can still access necessary tools with proper judicial oversight.

The bill also provides clarity for businesses responding to law enforcement requests, helping them protect their customers' rights. States like [California](#), [Utah](#), [Montana](#), [Michigan](#), and [Maine](#) have already enacted similar protections. Passing this legislation would position Rhode Island as a leader in digital privacy and set an example for Congress to follow.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me with any questions!

Sincerely,

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