



**Champion Advocacy
Associates**

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Robert Craven, Sr.
House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Craven and Committee Members,

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket. The Chamber opposes the passage of H.6346, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Identity Theft Protection Act.

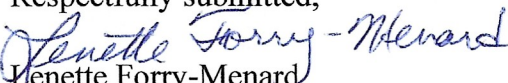
The bill changes “personal information” to “personally identifiable” information. It requires businesses to implement controls and procedures to restrict and manage access to the data “in transit and at rest.” Companies that disclose data to third parties must now, under current law, have a written contract stating the third party will maintain reasonable security measures. H.6346 adds subcontractors of the third party as well. Lastly, the bill increases the penalties for reckless violations of the Act from \$100 per record to \$1000 per record; and for knowing and willful violations, the penalty increases from \$200 per record to \$2000 per record. H.6346 gives the courts the ability to impose additional penalties as it deems warranted under the circumstances.

The Chamber believes the definition of “personal information” that exists in the current law, and that is more broadly used in this type of statute is justified because these laws are intended to protect consumers from financial harm. H.6346 utilizes a broader definition of information that is problematic and goes beyond definitions used by other state privacy laws.

Lastly, the increase in penalties is no small change. Businesses have thousand of customers. To put the penalty in perspective, the State itself, in the RIBridges data breach, would have been responsible for 650,000 people with a penalty of \$650 million. No company wants to be attacked by cyber criminals and the criminals continue to get more sophisticated. This penalty is punitive.

The Chamber encourages the committee hold H.6346 for further study.

Respectfully submitted,


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