

Angel's Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 7509

March 10, 2026

To the House Judiciary Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Angel Lopez, and I am a resident of Providence. I write to you today in opposition to House Bill 7509 because the proposed changes do not provide sufficient details.

A cyber security plan is as clear as a disaster recovery plan. This bill will remove the terms "classified data" and "personal data" and jumble up the two distinct definitions into the definition of Personally Identifiable Information. The distinct categories that make up "classified data" require industry standard encryption to protect from identity theft. The combination of data that defines "personal data" require additional in person human awareness and policy to ensure the adequate amount of per data security is present to protect client data. When both these definitions are squeezed into Personally Identifiable Information the distinction between the two are invisible.

In addition, the bill also includes biometric data and internet data within the definition of Personally Identifiable Information. This is adding two new and distinct data sets allowing for a Gumbo of Personally Identifiable Information to simmer inside a pot of definition (10) "reasonable security procedures".

Do you know what the best practice is to protect biometric data? How will that standard be upheld when biometric data is grouped together with internet data? There must be a clear separation of data sets between the two and any process that involves both data sets must have additional layers of encryption and/or human intervention or awareness to ensure the identity protection of the client during a time of elevated risk during processing.

After the "RIBridges" data breach, this state requires a robust Identity Theft Protect Act. The Act must provide clarity and be updated to reference most current industry standard of encryption for each data category. This bill is protecting the trade secrets of the "controllers" as described in the RI Data Transparency and Protection Act and not the residents and consumers in Rhode Island.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Angel Lopez
Resident of Providence, RI