



February 20, 2022

The Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Do Not Undermine Internet Encryption and Weaken Our On Line Security

Dear Members of Congress,

As your constituent, I urge you to reject and publicly oppose the EARN IT Act, S. 3538.

This bill will threaten the privacy of every American. The bill's sponsors envision a massive new surveillance system, scanning the messages, photos, and storage of all internet users. It would give over 50 state and territorial legislatures the power to regulate the Internet, under the guidance of an unelected commission dominated by law enforcement officials.

If the EARN IT Act passes, state legislatures will be able to ensure that websites and apps undermine encryption and regulate online content, from messages to websites, or risk being sued or prosecuted. The bill's backers use crimes against children as a justification to invite all 50 states to regulate the privacy protections internet websites and apps provide to their users. They have made their message clear: don't use true end-to-end encryption. Instead, scan everything.

State legislatures will have unprecedented power over websites, both large and small, and will likely pressure companies to scan not only messages, but cloud storage, online photos, and entire websites.

First of all, there is no difference between materials kept digitally and those kept on paper. Wholesale searches without cause are not OK just because we can get computer algorithms to do most of the work and do it on line. It is just plain wrong.

Secondly, this requirement will put encryption providers in an awful conundrum: either face the possibility of losing everything in a prosecution or costly litigation, or undermine their users' security, making all of us more vulnerable to online criminals.

The EARN IT Act will endanger privacy for everyone, including children. It treats every internet user as a potential criminal, and subjects our communications to mass scanning. Congress should reject it.

Please protect our privacy and security. Publicly oppose the EARN IT Act.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____
