

Dear State Leaders,

We are writing to call on Democratic leaders in all 15 states with Democratic trifectas to act immediately to safeguard our privacy, safety, and security.

Big Tech companies — the gatekeepers, collectors, purveyors, and shapers of our digital lives and data — have rapidly aligned themselves with the Trump administration through unprecedented financial contributions¹, dealings², algorithmic changes³, and policy updates⁴. Largely unregulated and unaccountable, these companies pose a growing threat to our fundamental freedoms as they aid and abet President Donald Trump's dangerous⁵ and illegal agenda⁶ to their own benefit and to the public's detriment. By tracking our every click, hover, and movement on and offline, Big Tech companies represent a powerful weapon for carrying out the Trump administration's surveillance, prosecution, degradation, and deportation of people. Federal authorities and law enforcement agencies depend on Big Tech for data collection⁷, but states have the power to represent their constituents and ensure their privacy and safety.

To counteract the dangerous alignment of Big Tech and Trump's authoritarianism and extremism, it is of the utmost urgency for your state to pass legislation to erect a firewall between government and Big Tech, safeguard our sensitive personal data, curtail Big Tech's incentives for the collection and retention of data, and empower people with control over their own data. These are universally popular measures for data privacy and consumer protection⁸ that will impede President Trump's agenda to punish political opponents⁹, deport millions of people including citizens¹⁰, restrict access to reproductive care¹¹, and undermine LGBTQ+ rights¹². While the Trump administration and its supporters embrace Big Tech's surveillance and corporate interests — and vice versa — Democrats have the opportunity to be the party of the people by cementing our fundamental rights and protections.

Just fifteen states, including yours, entered 2025 with Democratic governing trifectas, and they must not only defend but also aggressively and proactively promote the freedoms we all deserve. As a state leader, you can and must protect individuals and communities now from surveillance and other harmful practices that will be key to a Trump agenda that will inevitably weaponize unregulated platforms and unchecked corporate power. Your community cannot afford inaction. We deserve swift, proactive action to protect our freedom, safety, and security. We call on states to enact the following policies:

¹ <https://www.fastcompany.com/91257772/trump-inauguration-big-tech-donations-list-google-microsoft-meta-apple>

² <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/amazon-paying-license-melania-trump-documentary-1235227761/>

³ <https://www.theverge.com/2024/11/17/24298669/musk-trump-endorsement-x-boosting-republican-posts-july-algorithm-change>

⁴ <https://about.fb.com/news/2025/01/meta-more-speech-fewer-mistakes/>

⁵ <https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/meta-moderation-transgender-women-hate>

⁶ <https://theintercept.com/2024/12/02/location-personal-data-trump-deport-immigrants/>

⁷ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/emmawoollacott/2024/08/28/us-government-requests-most-user-data-from-big-tech-firms/>

⁸ <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2023/10/18/how-americans-view-data-privacy/>

⁹ <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/21/nx-s1-5134924/trump-election-2024-kamala-harris-elizabeth-cheney-threat-civil-liberties>

¹⁰ <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-aims-end-birthright-citizenship-says-american-citizens-family-il-rcna183274>

¹¹ <https://reproductiverights.org/trump-presidency-2024-threats-reproductive-freedoms/>

¹² <https://www.aclu.org/trump-on-lgbtq-rights>

Enact firewalls between your state government, the federal government, and private companies to protect people’s right to privacy. See *guiding legislative language in the Fourth Amendment Is Not For Sale Act*¹³ and, *the American Data Privacy and Protection Act*¹⁴. *Specific recommendations include:*

- Limit the ability of out-of-state law enforcement agencies and private companies, including data brokers, to surveil residents in your state.
- Prevent state government agencies from purchasing users’ data including communications, health, and biometric data without a warrant.
- Enact prohibitions on the transfer of personal information to third parties without explicit personal consent.
- Guarantee Fourth Amendment privacy protections, especially on data obtained by third-parties.
- Prohibit state governments from signing NDAs with federal agencies or private companies that involve sharing residents’ personal data without clear, public disclosure.
- To the maximum extent possible and permitted by law, ensure state agencies: (1) refrain from collecting data concerning residents’ citizenship status and/or place of birth and otherwise (2) refrain from sharing collected data with out-of-state and federal law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Safeguard sensitive personal data and information for all individuals. See *guiding legislative templates with the My Body, My Data Act*¹⁵, *Massachusetts Location Shield Act*¹⁶, *California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act*¹⁷, and *City of Portland Chapter 34.10 Ordinance*¹⁸. *Specific recommendations include:*

- Restrict the collection of location data for sensitive locations including reproductive and gender-affirming care health care facilities, mental health care facilities, and domestic violence shelters.
- Prevent companies from selling, leasing, or trading location data while allowing legitimate, use-specific data collection with informed user consent.
- Ban the sale and limit the collection of sensitive personal data on reproductive health, sexual health, sexuality, immigration status, and status as transgender or nonbinary.
- Ban the sale of data related to individuals’ participation in protest activities or social justice organizing, ensuring that such information cannot be used to surveil or target individuals based on their exercise of First Amendment rights.
- Create protections for personal data similar to a HIPAA standard.
- Prohibit health care providers, insurers, and contractors—as well as health-adjacent operations such as crisis pregnancy centers and telehealth apps—from sharing medical information without clear and informed patient authorization.
- Require medical providers to store and destroy personal data confidentially.

¹³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4639>

¹⁴ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8152>

¹⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1656>

¹⁶ <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S148>

¹⁷ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=56.10.&lawCode=CIV

¹⁸ <https://www.portland.gov/code/34/10>

- Prohibit the use of face recognition technologies by private entities in public places.

Curtail Big Tech’s toxic business model of surveillance advertising by limiting its incentives for data collection and retention. *See guiding legislative templates with the Ban Surveillance Advertising Act¹⁹ and Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024²⁰. Specific recommendations include:*

- Prohibit targeted advertising with the exception of broad location targeting to a recognized place like a state, city, or county.
- Require online products and services to have default privacy settings set to the most private.
- Prohibit the collection of people’s location unless necessary for the service.
- Mandate that entities collecting personal data adhere to strict data minimization standards.
- Prohibit companies from denying service, charging more, or otherwise discriminating against individuals who opt out of data collection or refuse targeted advertising.

Empower people to have greater control of their own data, privacy, and safety. *See guiding legislative templates with the California Consumer Privacy Act²¹, the Delete Act²², and the AI CONSENT Act²³. Specific recommendations include:*

- Establish the right to access, correct, and delete personal data.
- Allow people and their authorized agents to delete their personal data collected by data brokers with one click, and require their information be permanently delisted from all data brokers once they have registered their opt-out.
- Enable consumers to access information about the disclosure of their personal and general data to third parties.
- Require people to proactively opt in to the processing, sale, and profiling of their personal data for the purposes of targeted advertising.
- Require companies to opt-in individuals to AI training on their data.
- Reject mask bans that infringe on people’s privacy and freedom of speech.
- Require easily readable privacy policies.

Failure to address Big Tech’s alignment with authoritarianism and extremism threatens the lives of millions of people and the very foundation of our democracy. We are approaching a point of no return, and it is incumbent on you to act quickly to create a safe haven in your state from the exploitation of Big Tech’s surveillance. While Big Tech companies will inevitably deploy all their expansive resources and prolific lobbying power to oppose any effort for regulation and accountability, you must remain steadfast in the pursuit of protecting people’s privacy, security, and safety to the fullest extent possible.

¹⁹ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5534>

²⁰ <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0567?ys=2024RS>

²¹ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=3.&part=4.&lawCode=CIV&title=1.81.5

²² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4311>

²³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3975/>

Inaction will result in harm. It's up to our leaders in power to mitigate the extent of that harm. We must not cede this fight. We still have power, and we must use it now.

Signed,

Accountable Tech
Fight for the Future
UltraViolet
18 Million Rising
ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
Advance Maryland
Apiary for Practical Support
Arkansas Black Gay Men's Forum
Assembly Four
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
Caribbean Equality Project
Center on Race and Digital Justice
Chicago Abortion Fund
COLAGE
Color Of Change
Courage California
Cyber Collective
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress
Democracy for America Advocacy Fund
Digital Fourth
EducateUS
Ekō
Endora
Equality Labs
Fairness Campaign
FEMINIST
Free Press Action
Fuse Washington
Gen-Z for Change
Global Project Against Hate and Extremism
Higher Heights For America
Indivisible Bainbridge Island
Jewish Voices for Peace Action
Kairos Action
Lucy Parsons Labs
Midwest Access Coalition
MPower Action Fund

Muslim Advocates
NTEN
Old Pros
OpenMedia
Path To Progress
Presente.org
Point of Pride
ProgressNow New Mexico Education Fund
Real Facebook Oversight Board
Reproaction
Right To Be
RootsAction.org
Secure Justice
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)
SHERo Mississippi
Surveillance Watch
TakeltBack.org
TechActivist.org
Tech Oversight Project
Trans &
Transathlete
Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-US)
Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-KY)
Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY)
Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-TX)
Voters of Tomorrow
WA People's Privacy
Woodhull Freedom Foundation
Yale Privacy Lab