

March 7, 2025

Office of Governor Cox
Utah Capitol Building
350 State St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: HB 418 - "Data Sharing Amendments" (Veto Request)

Dear Governor Cox:

On behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), I write to respectfully ask that Governor Cox veto HB 418. CCIA is an international, not-for-profit trade association representing a broad cross-section of communications and technology firms.¹ Proposed regulations on the interstate provision of digital services therefore can have a significant impact on CCIA members. While CCIA supports robust consumer protections and sound competition policy, the proposed bill would negatively impact consumer privacy and security online. The impact of this reduced privacy and security outweighs any small improvement in convenience that data portability might bring consumers.

Although HB 418 requires social media companies to “safeguard the privacy and security of a user’s personal data obtained from other social media services through the interoperability interface” and not “share or receive a user’s personal data through the interoperability interface except with the user’s consent,” the interoperability interface’s very existence undercuts user privacy. Such interfaces increase the number of places where users’ data is stored which, in turn, increases the risk of a confidentiality breach. Moreover, having a large interface for such transfers multiplies the impact of a breach — a hacker accessing the interface might access data from many social media users across several sites.

Moreover, different companies have different security practices. Some encrypt data while others do not. Different companies retain different types of data for different periods of time, and are bound by different laws and regulations if they operate across multiple jurisdictions, as “social media companies” tend to do. Many also tailor their security practices to the specific types of data they process. HB 418 undermines companies’ ability to create the best security features for their specific data uses, which in turn undermines their users’ safety.

While HB 418 might save consumers time when setting up a profile on a new social media site, the potential time saved is not worth the security risks. Companies should be allowed to protect their users’ information in the best way possible given the configuration of their own websites without needing to water down such practices to make user data accessible to other companies.

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¹ For more than 50 years, CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, and open networks. CCIA members employ more than 1.6 million workers, invest more than \$100 billion in research and development, and contribute trillions of dollars in productivity to the global economy. A list of CCIA members is available at <https://www.ccianet.org/members>.

While we share the concerns of the sponsors, we encourage Governor Cox to resist advancing legislation that is not adequately tailored to this objective. We appreciate the Governor's consideration of these comments and stand ready to provide additional information as the Utah government considers proposals related to technology policy.

Sincerely,

Aodhan Downey
State Policy Manager, West
Computer & Communications Industry Association