



June 21, 2024
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of CatholicVote, representing the voices of millions of Catholics across America who seek to renew our country and our culture, I am writing to voice our opposition to the current provision of the “American Right to Privacy Act of 2024.” The well-intentioned bill includes language that could threaten the effectiveness and daily functions of life-affirming pregnancy resource centers while also can give cover to those who would prey on innocent women and the unborn, such as predators and other criminals.

The definition of “covered entity” includes non-profit organizations, which means that pro-life groups, crisis pregnancy centers, and faith-based organizations could be subject to government action and lawsuits under the provision. The argument in favor of silencing pregnancy care centers is countered by proponents of the bill that “abortion facilities like Planned Parenthood would also be limited.” This balance seems unlikely and misses the purpose of pregnancy resource center advertising – to break through the inundation of abortion advertising and media content.

The porous definition of "health Information" that is used in the section on Data Minimization also presents a problem:

“(13) except with respect health information, to prevent, detect, protect against, investigate, or respond to criminal activity, excluding the transfer of covered data for payment or other valuable consideration to a government entity.”

Based on the definition of "health information" provided in the definitions section, it could be read by a hostile administration to claim all data related to the purchasing of illegal abortion pills online is health information and so therefore is not subject to the criminal activity carveout for data sharing. In person abortuaries also would be given a further legal cover to hide information of sexual predators and traffickers, areas where they already have a bad history.

This bill creates a right for individuals who are breaking abortion laws to delete health information, even when the company knows that the reason for doing so is to further/hide their criminal activity. While doing this, the bill also specifically preserves laws that are more protective of health privacy and medical records, such as state shield laws. In the list of civil laws still allowed, those relating to reproductive health and abortion are not given a carveout which raises some concern over any state pro-life laws with only civil not criminal penalties.

Unless this language is fixed in committee, CatholicVote will oppose the American Right to Privacy Act of 2024” if it comes to the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McClusky'.

Thomas McClusky
Director of Government Affairs
CatholicVote