

Thank you for inviting me here today to speak on such an important bill.

How your vote will have a serious impact on all people here in Vermont.

Today, we must take a stand against companies that wish to erode the trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Let's be clear. These companies want one thing above all else — profit.

Their business model is to collect and sell off the personal and private data of people like you and me.

We are seeing security cameras, video-enabled door bells, and other smart devices with cameras scooping up data on a mass scale.

Your data becomes what drives some companies market value. And very often, your data is sold off to the highest bidder without your explicit knowledge.

Recently we've seen companies attempting to extend their net used for gathering data by creating proxy police states.

It is very concerning that some law enforcement departments in our state are encouraging and participating in the mass data collection of our neighbors, for the financial gain of major companies.

What's especially concerning is the willingness of certain law enforcement departments to enter secret agreements that prevent them from disclosing such partnerships.

I believe our local agencies are simply unaware of the dangers that are created by opening this pandoras box.

Dont be mistaken. Companies are working diligently to create opportunities for law enforcement to circumvent laws. And while some in law enforcement may feel this aides their efforts it in fact makes their communities less safe.

I will close by sharing three things.

Law enforcement has other avenues for criminal investigation — they do not need to eavesdrop on the communities they serve and protect.

Privacy is necessary for personal and national security and eroding our standards for privacy does more harm than good.

Privacy is a fundamental human right.

I hope you all join me in supporting this bill and vote YES to 602. Thank you

What is happening

We know a little bit about what is happening but not everything because the companies involved are enforcing non-disclosure agreements in many cases — so the people involved can't talk about it

that being said there has been some information shared with the public and what is happening is this the companies are providing access to the video feeds directly to the law enforcement departments

since law-enforcement has 24/7 access to the video feed they are able to watch it, record it and ultimately this remove the need for getting warrants in the future

What is the solution

The effectiveness of law enforcement is reliant on one thing above all else — the level of trust they foster with their community.

Communication is critical.

When law enforcement removes the public from the conversation, they are destroying the relationship with those they serve.

If law enforcement departments feel that this is an approach that should be a part of their departments policies they should bring the conversation to the communities they serve

they should ask that it's a part of their budget they should allow the people of their town or city to vote on it.