



MAPS-AMEN

AMERICAN MUSLIM EMPOWERMENT NETWORK

January 14 2020

Dear Speaker Jenkins:

I haven't had a chance to say this to you personally yet, but HUGE congratulations to you on being the first woman House Speaker in Washington! That is a source of pride and honor for so many of us, and I thank you for your service and leadership.

I am also writing to strongly encourage you to **oppose the 2020 WA Privacy Act, and support the Face Surveillance Moratorium** (SB 5528 / HB 1654).

As you may know, I am the Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network, an initiative of the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (which serves over 5,000 families in the state of Washington). MAPS-AMEN is focused on education, engagement, empowerment, and justice advocacy, and the 2020 WA Privacy Act raises significant concerns for the communities we serve, support and represent.

Specifically, the Muslim community in the United States has been a target for warrantless surveillance, especially in the last two decades. Political tensions and continued anti-Muslim institutional racism contribute to the unfair treatment of Muslim individuals through profiling and surveillance. We in Washington state must be diligent in ensuring that powerful technologies such as facial surveillance do not contribute to further injustices. Due to the facial recognition features within the 2020 WA Privacy Act, we are alarmed by its prospective passage, and ask you to **oppose the 2020 WA Privacy Act**.

To ensure that facial surveillance is not misused in WA, we encourage our elected leaders to support the Face Surveillance Moratorium (SB 5528 / HB 1654). This bill will enable community groups to weigh in and know about technologies intended for governmental use, which is critical for accountability and transparency. We hope you agree on the importance of accountability, transparency and community input, and therefore will push pause on the use of facial surveillance by **supporting the Face Surveillance Moratorium** (SB 5528 / HB 1654).

It is not just facial surveillance that is a concern within the 2020 WA Privacy Act. Confusing and vague language within the bill undermines the ability for consumers to enforce data protections. This bill presents numerous loopholes that technology companies could exploit, and further examination and evaluation of this bill is required to ensure consumer data protections.

The 2020 WA Privacy Act does not create meaningful protections for many communities in Washington, including communities of color, and the facial surveillance provisions pose a direct threat to civil liberties. *We strongly urge you to **oppose the 2020 WA Privacy Act and to support Face Surveillance Moratorium** (HB 1654 / SB 5528).* Thank you in advance.

Kindest regards,

Aneelah Afzali



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