

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery  
of**

**Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky**

***Hearing on “Addressing America’s Data Privacy Shortfalls: How a National Standard Fills  
Gaps to Protect Americans’ Personal Information.”***

**April 27, 2023**

A majority of Americans agree: consumers need comprehensive federal data privacy protections.

Existing sector specific federal privacy laws leave consumers vulnerable to invasions of their privacy.

HIPAA protects health information you share with your doctor or hospital, but not information collected by most mobile health applications.

Financial information you share with your bank has some protections, but not most payment data shared with retailers.

FERPA protects student data, but does not protect a child who attends a private school or when a child downloads and uses an educational app at home.

These laws leave large gaps in their protections.

Big Tech has stepped into those gaps to collect ever more personal and intimate data about us and our children.

Tech companies profit off of our habits, our finances, who we love, where we live, and our most sensitive health data.

Every time you browse the web or wear a smart watch, a tech company is tracking you.

They use this data to manipulate us, to addict us, and to keep us on their platforms so we can be fed more ads.

Or they sell the data to the highest bidder so that companies you’ve never heard of can build profiles of you.

Over the past few years, the DOJ charged three data brokers for knowingly selling lists of vulnerable Americans to criminal scammers.

These companies profited off defrauding elderly Americans and people with Alzheimer’s.

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Enough is enough.

We need protections for all Americans that put consumers back in control of their data.

Americans are tired of feeling helpless online.

It is time to pass comprehensive federal data privacy legislation that protects consumers and fills the gaps in these sectoral laws.