



TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Ned Carey

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
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DATE: March 9, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 784 – *Maryland Online Consumer Protection Act*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 784.

House Bill 784 requires businesses that collect a consumer's personal information to provide clear and conspicuous notices to the consumer at or before the point of collection. It requires a business to comply with a request for information within 45 days after receiving a verifiable consumer request.

Though MTC recognizes the importance of protecting online consumer data and providing certain security features for connected devices, the matter that House Bill 784 addresses should and must be resolved on the federal level. Meaningful consistent compliance by industry would be more reliably satisfied with a uniform nationwide solution. This bill would have the effect of imposing millions of dollars of compliance costs on tech businesses and would harm the State's economy more than it would protect consumer privacy. We understand that the tech industry is working with the Sponsor on amendments and are hopeful that consensus can be reached. However, as currently drafted, MTC urges an unfavorable report for House Bill 784.

For more information call:

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