

January 13 2020

Dear Lawmakers,

We at the John T. Williams Organizing Committee - an organization dedicated to supporting positive solutions and actions to address police accountability, particularly with regards to the welfare of Urban Native people -- are writing to urge this Committee to oppose the 2020 WA Privacy Act (HB 2742 / SB 6281) and to instead support the Face Surveillance Moratorium bill HB 1654 / SB 5528.

Face surveillance technology is a powerful tool that can be easily misused or abused to target minority communities. We know that Urban Native populations are already targets for disproportionate police surveillance, and we do not support legislation that increases the potential for face surveillance. We request that our lawmakers "push pause" on the use of face surveillance technologies by supporting bill HB 1654 / SB 5528, which will require that this powerful tool be proven to be unbiased and properly regulated before being used on the public. We request that this committee join us in opposing the 2020 WA Privacy Act (HB 2742 / SB 6281).

A vote for Face Surveillance Moratorium bill HB 1654 / SB 5528 is a vote for responsible use of technology, and a vote for preserving the privacy and well being of Native populations.

A vote against the 2020 WA Privacy Act (HB 2742 / SB 6281) is a vote against the potential misuse of surveillance technologies, as well as an important step in defending consumers. Beyond face surveillance provisions, we find that the 2020 WA Privacy Act (HB 2742 / SB 6281) possesses many loopholes that technology businesses can exploit, and offers little to no recourse or means of enforcement for consumers seeking to protect their data.

Technology can easily amplify the injustices that communities of color in Washington have suffered, and we must legislate responsibly to protect the privacy of all people. We believe the 2020 WA Privacy Act does not create meaningful protections for communities of color in Washington and we strongly urge this Committee to oppose the 2020 WA Privacy Act (HB 2742 / SB 6281) and to support Face Surveillance Moratorium (HB 1654 / SB 5528).



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The John T. Williams Organizing Committee