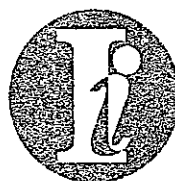


THINK FREEDOM

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Feb. 9, 2017

The Independence Institute supports HB 17-1069, to create a temporary task force with members knowledgeable in data privacy and cyber security to review (1) state agency data privacy policies to minimize the collection of personally identifiable information; (2) current state policies on data sharing and access; and (3) sufficiency of cyber security for state agency databases.

The Cato Institute study "Understanding Privacy, and the Real Threats to It" defines privacy as "the subjective condition people experience when they have power to control information about themselves." The study notes that one of the (several) ways government undermines privacy is "by collecting, cataloging, and sharing personal information about citizens for administrative purposes."

And indeed, Coloradans are routinely required to hand over information to state agencies as a matter of law, and to simply function in our modern economy. Want to drive on a public road? Then you must turn over your social security number, a fingerprint and a digitized photo to be stored in a shareable database. Take a controlled substance as prescribed by your doctor? The state mandates that information be entered into the Prescription Drug Monitoring Database. Want to earn a living? You must turn over the detail of your financial affairs so the state can collect income taxes. The list goes on and on. In return, it seems entirely reasonable to ensure the government not demand more information than is absolutely necessary, and that citizens be made fully aware how such information is being used and shared, so they may exercise meaningful say in the matter through the Legislature, or at the ballot.

We think data privacy and security are very important to both citizens and businesses in Colorado whose data is being collected and stored by state agencies. A task force review that includes outside experts in data privacy and cyber security will hopefully assist the Legislature in strengthening Colorado data management practices.

We also strongly support the task force seeking comment and input from the public on data privacy and security. This process should facilitate greater public understanding of state government and its operations, and greater understanding by government of the concerns of citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Krause

Local Colorado Project Director