

Testimony of Michael McDermott
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Verizon
House Bill 1134 (Rep. Heilman) - As Amended

Presented by Todd D. Kranda - Verizon Lobbyist (#58)

Chairman Klemin, members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of Verizon in favor of House Bill 1134, pending an amendment.

I would like to begin by thanking Rep. Heilman for his willingness to accept this proposed amendment that we believe will achieve the ultimate goals of the original bill but also protect those entities, like Verizon, who could be subjected to unintended consequences should this measure be passed without this amendment.

The telecommunications industry takes seriously the shared responsibility of protecting our customers' personal information. We acknowledge the legitimate concerns of consumers and lawmakers in holding accountable those who misuse an individual's personal information to threaten, intimidate or harass them. The amendment we have proposed does not undermine that laudable goal. Rather, it ensures that those who are committing these nefarious acts are the ones held accountable.

As the bill is currently written, a victim may be able to bring legal action against a wireless carrier, a radio or television broadcaster, or an internet service provider, even when that company did not commit the unlawful act.

The purpose of this amendment is to exclude those companies who carry content that, in many cases, they can neither see nor control. By adopting this amendment you will be placing liability solely on the person who deserves it, the bad actor violating the law.

Thank you again for your willingness to consider the proposed amendment as shown below and thank you to Rep. Heilman for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

Verizon's proposed amendment is as follows:

Page 2 after line 22 insert:

“(5) This section does not impose liability upon the following entities:

- a. An interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230;**
- b. An internet service provider, cloud provider, or telecommunications network; or**
- c. A radio or television broadcaster, including a streaming platform, cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer.”**