



March 10, 2015

Honorable Mark Leno
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Leno,

The California Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CA) strongly supports SB178 – the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act (CalECPA). CAIR-CA is proud to be a co-sponsor of such an important bill that will ensure our electronic communications are protected from warrantless searches.

CalECPA enhances basic 4th Amendment safeguards by closing loopholes and providing protection on electronic data and communication. It will protect against warrantless government access to mobile devices, emails, text messages, digital documents, metadata, and location information. Specifically, CalECPA would provide:

- Warrant protection for digital information
- Proper transparency and oversight
- Appropriate exceptions for public safety

Currently law enforcement can turn mobile phones into tracking devices and access e-mails, digital documents, and text messages without proper judicial oversight. This causes grave concern for the Muslim community that has faced a disproportionate level of law enforcement surveillance in the last 15 years. This has caused chilling effect on our community's 1st Amendment protected activities.

CalECPA will be part of the legislative agenda at the 4th Annual Muslim Day at the Capitol on Monday, April 27th, where Muslims from across California will gather in Sacramento to meet with their legislators and advocate for policy changes.

We urge our legislators to pass CalECPA to ensure that our privacy is secure and protected by laws that have been updated to reflect the modern digital age.

Safaa Ibrahim
Board Chair, CAIR-California