

Illinois PIRG

**Standing Up
To Powerful Interests**

27 May, 2016

Dear Senator Biss,

I am writing to express our opposition and grave concern over House Bill 6074, Senate Floor Amendment 1.

The amendment retroactively removes the consumer protections of Illinois Biometric Information Protection Act (BIPA) and renders the Act effectively null. It does this by changing the technical definition of biometric scans so as to render BIPA inapplicable to actual biometrics. BIPA will be a meaningless statute if the amendment passes.

BIPA is a statute that allows biometric scans to happen with the consent of Illinois residents. It offers innovation with balance. The proposed amendment changes this balance by making the statute inapplicable to the majority of biometric activities

BIPA is the subject of national and international attention as a forward-thinking consumer protection law. The amendment will be deleterious to consumer rights. The nation's only meaningful biometrics privacy law will disappear.

The Amendment was filed Thursday May 26th and as of writing has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. I encourage you to oppose this amendment. Any changes to consumer privacy laws should be subject to scrutiny and robust public debate, not moved quickly and quietly in the hectic last days of the legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you wish to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,

Abraham Scarr

Director

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