

**Testimony Submitted by
Chris Coughlin, Policy Director
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection**

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Regarding: Support for HB 2008 -2

Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Chiachi, Vice-Chair Osborne, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Chris Coughlin. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of HB 2008 with the -2 amendment.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

While the Oregon Consumer Privacy Act (SB 619) was a critical step forward in 2023, gaps in the law continue to leave minors and consumers at risk of data exploitation. HB 2008 -2 builds on this foundation by closing loopholes, strengthening protections, and ensuring that privacy rights truly put people first.

HB 2008 -2 builds on existing protections by:

- Expanding protections for minors
- Prohibiting the sale of precise geolocation data and the personal data of minors.

Representative Chotzen brought HB 3899 to OCJ a couple of weeks ago, and we were grateful for the opportunity to continue the conversation about data privacy. In the weeks since Representative Chotzen has convened stakeholders in several meetings

and led a fair and thoughtful process in which everyone's concerns were taken seriously and deeply considered.

While we were supportive of the base bill, we understand why, ultimately, the scope of HB 2008 has been narrowed to data from minors and the ban on the sale of precise geolocation data. We understand the importance of passing laws that can be implemented and enforced. We hope future legislation will continue to strengthen data privacy laws for Oregonians.

We have heard concerns about making changes to a law that was so recently passed. While there are some policy areas where we can afford to wait a few years to review and evaluate the efficacy of legislation, data privacy is not one of them. The data privacy and technology industries are rapidly and constantly evolving. It is important for all of us to do everything we can to not play catch-up, but instead proactively take action to protect Oregonians.

Protecting personal data is essential to maintaining consumer trust and safety. OCJ urges the committee to support HB 2008 -2 and take this necessary step in securing Oregonians' data. This bill ensures stronger safeguards for minors, prevents the harmful sale of location data, and helps align Oregon with national best practices.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.