



**CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT
POLICY CENTER**

1225 8th Street, Suite 590
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ph: 916.448.6762 Fax: 916.448.6774
www.caimmigrant.org

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Loni Hancock
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 178 (Leno) – Support

Dear Senator Hancock,

The California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) strongly supports SB 178 – The California Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which safeguards the rights of Californians by updating California privacy law for the modern digital world.

The California Immigrant Policy Center is a non-partisan, non-profit statewide organization founded in 1996. Our statewide organization helps to develop and support pro-immigrant public policy that is aimed at improving the quality of life for all Californians. As such, we are dedicated to protecting the right to privacy by supporting this initiative to prohibit the monitoring of smart meter usage data, text messages, calendar datebooks, or any other private electronic communications monitored or collected by law enforcement agencies without a warrant signed by a judge.

SB 178 creates clear expectations about our right to privacy. It will make sure that the police go to a judge and get a warrant before they can access sensitive information, including data from personal electronic devices, emails, digital documents, text messages, and location information under normal circumstances. The bill also includes thoughtful exceptions that acknowledge legitimate public safety needs. The bill's notice, reporting, and enforcement provisions make sure that there is proper transparency and oversight mechanisms to ensure that the law is followed.

The price of California residents benefiting from the fruits of new technology should not be losing their rights to privacy and basic respect as human beings. We supports SB 178 to make sure that Californians are not forced to choose between using new technology and their privacy, and that California's technology companies are not burdened with privacy laws stuck in the digital dark ages.

Thank you for exercising your leadership by introducing this important legislation, the California Immigrant Policy Center is happy to support SB 178 during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Ronald Coleman
Government Affairs Manager

CC: The Honorable Mark Leno
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety

