



1107 9th Street, Suite 625 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 498-9608 • mail@consumercal.org

March 11, 2015

Senator Loni Hancock
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 178 (Leno) – Support
Senate Public Safety Committee – March 24, 2015**

Dear Senator Hancock:

The Consumer Federation of California supports Senate Bill 178 (Leno), the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which requires law enforcement agencies in California to obtain a search warrant to access the voluminous amount of digital information stored on Californians' electronic devices as well as on the Internet in email inboxes, digital archives, and social media. This bill has been scheduled to be heard on March 24, 2015 in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the imperative need to protect electronic data. The Court held in *Riley v. California* that electronic devices, such as cell phones, and the data stored on a phone or electronic device, differ in both "a quantitative and a qualitative sense" from other physical objects accessible to law enforcement. The Supreme Court's opinion invited the states to legislate these protections, and SB 178 will let California join Maine, Utah and Texas in establishing civil protections for information stored electronic devices.

Over the past years, revelations over the National Security Agency's efforts to compel technology companies to turn over user information has undermined consumer confidence in the essential electronic tools we use in our modern lives. SB 178 is commonsense legislation that will extend the privacy protections enshrined in the 4th Amendment and California's Constitution to consumers' electronic data just as such protections are afforded to the rest of their personal property.

We urge your support on this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Legislative Advocate, Aaron Lewis, at (916) 498-9616.

Sincerely,

Richard Holober
Executive Director

CC: Members, Senate Public Safety
Senator Mark Leno