



April 15, 2025

Honorable Chair Bauer-Kahan
Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
1020 N Street, Room 162
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: [Support] AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan): Automated Decisions Safety Act

Dear Chair Bauer-Kahan and Members of the Committee,

We, the undersigned organizations, representing thousands of consumers and a diverse set of communities throughout California are pleased to submit our support for AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan). This bill will establish common-sense guardrails to prevent and reduce inaccurate or discriminatory decisions by automated decision-making systems.

While the advent of generative AI and large language models has been a new piece of the puzzle, ADS have long existed in our communities. ADS have been woven into the daily lives of our community members—increasingly these tools are dictating access to and the quality of housing, healthcare, employment, credit, and many other critical services Californians need. The potential harms and biases of these systems have been well documented—from banks using lending models that were twice as likely to deny Black applicants compared to White applicants with the same financial profile,¹ to healthcare providers using ADS that significantly underestimated the healthcare needs of Black patients compared to White ones.² Technology should not be a pass to violate our civil and labor rights, this legislation regulates the misuse of automated systems.

AB 1018 would enact common-sense guardrails to help ensure that developers and deployers of these tools are testing for discriminatory outcomes prior to utilizing the tool and ensuring that consumers have the information they need to understand the role that an ADS is playing in critical decisions and what rights they have when these systems impact critical areas of their lives. Specifically, the legislation:

1. **Requires these tools to be tested before they are used on the public:** Requires that people who make and use these tools test them to ensure they do not create harm and comply with our existing rights to non-discrimination before they are sold and used on the public. It ensures that these tests are verified by an independent third party.
2. **Provides a notice to people that this tool will be used to make a critical decision about their life:** Provides people the information they need to understand where these tools are showing up in their lives and how they'll be used to determine their housing, healthcare, and job outcomes.
3. **Provides an explanation to people who were subject to a decision made with these tools:** Provides people an explanation of what the tool did, what personal information it used about them to make the decision and what role the tool played in making the decision.
4. **Ensures that everyday people have more control over how these tools are used in their daily lives:** Through this bill, people will have the right to opt out of the use of an ADS tool in a critical decision about them; they will be able to correct information that the tool used to make the decision if it is inaccurate; and they will have the right to appeal the decision.

Pre-deployment testing protects Californians by ensuring that businesses understand the risks and accuracy of the systems they're purchasing and

¹ <https://themarkup.org/denied/2021/08/25/the-secret-bias-hidden-in-mortgage-approval-algorithms>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/oct/25/healthcare-algorithm-racial-biases-optum>

deploying to make consequential decisions about Californians. The strong notice and explanation provisions in this bill are a critical first step for consumers to know how these tools are being used and to be able to exercise their right to correct their data or appeal a decision. These protections are more important than ever as we see a Federal pullback from safety guardrails on AI and as other states and jurisdictions pass laws recognizing the danger inherent in letting these systems enter into our lives without clear protections and safeguards for the public.

We are proud to support AB 1018 and look forward to continuing to work with the author and committee members to ensure that the growth and innovation of technology is beneficial for all Californians. We urge your aye vote on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kim Rosenberger, Senior Government Relations Advocate, SEIU California

Samantha Gordon, Chief Program Officer, TechEquity Action

Jessica Stender, Policy Director, Equal Rights Advocates

Desiree Nguyen Orth, Director of the Consumer Justice Program, East Bay Community Law Center

Tracy Rosenberg, Advocacy Director, Oakland Privacy

Edmund Velasco, President, American Federation of Musicians Local 7

Caroline Peattie, Executive Director, Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

Cynthia Conti-Cook, Director of Research and Policy, Surveillance Resistance Lab

Teri Olle, Director, Economic Security California Action

Ben Winters, Director of AI and Privacy, Consumer Federation of America

Caitriona Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)

Edgar Ortiz, Supervisory Policy Manager - Economic Justice, California Immigrant Policy Center

Mariko Yoshihara, Policy Director, California Employment Lawyers Association

Shayla Wilson, Director of Political Education, Justice2Jobs Coalition

Joanne Scheer, Executive Director, Felony Murder Elimination Project

Angel Rice, Executive Director, Restoring Hope California

Nidhi Sinha, Volunteer, Citizen's Privacy Coalition

Jennifer Greppi, Director of Parent Policy, Parent Voices

Natasha Minsker, Policy Advisor, Smart Justice California

Yesenia Jimenez, Senior Policy Associate, End Child Poverty California powered by GRACE

Lan Le, Policy Advocate, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California

Marisol Franco, Chief Strategist - Programs, Women's Foundation California

Irene Kao, Executive Director, Courage California

Grace Geyde, Policy Analyst, Consumer Reports

Stephen Knight, Executive Director, Worksafe

Dr. Carole Dorham-Kelly, President and CEO, Rubicon Programs

Shayla Wilson, Policy and Advocacy Advisor, La Defensa

Angel Lin, Tech Equity Policy Fellow, Greenlining Institute

Peter Phillips, Advocacy Manager, Vision y Compromiso

Jonathan Mehta Stein, Executive Director, California Common Cause, and Chair, California Initiative for Technology and Democracy

Robert Weissman, Co President, Public Citizen

Kristina Bas Hamilton, Director of State Government Affairs, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930

Amy Schur, Campaign Director, ACCE ACTION (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment)

Emory Roane, Associate Director of Policy, Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

Taylor Brewer, Attorney, California Women's Law Center

Robert Herrell, Executive Director, Consumer Federation of California

Kristin Heidelberg, Legislative Director, UFCW Western States Council

Jacqueline Serna, Deputy Legislative Director, Consumer Attorneys of California

Chriselle Raguro, Director of Pro Bono & Strategic Partnerships, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

Lee Sandahl, Legislative Advocate, Northern California District Council of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union

Mikey Hothi, CA Policy Director, Common Sense Media

Mitch Steiger, Legislative Representative, CFT, A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals

Margaret DeMatteo, Directing Attorney, California Center for Movement Legal Services

Camerina S. Davidson, President, California National Organization for Women (CA NOW)

Jeffrey Buchanan, Managing Director, Working Partnerships USA

Victor Sanchez, Executive Director, LAANE

Lauren Jacobs, Executive Director, PowerSwitch Action

Patrick Armstrong, Vice President of Tech Policy and Government Affairs, Kapor Center