Wednesday, August 19, 2026

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
1020 N Street, Room 162

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nick Schultz
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 690 (Caballero) – Coalition Oppose

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we must respectfully oppose SB 690 (Caballero).

We want to thank Sen. Caballero and Chair Bauer Kahan for their work to reach an agreement that reflects a tailored, surgical approach to addressing privacy concerns. We appreciate the amendments that were agreed to in Asm. Privacy Committee and would like for that agreement to stay in place. SB 690 in its current form retroactively *eliminates* the private right of action protecting consumers from pen register tracking; however, it preserves the most critical portions of CIPA that have been protecting Californians since 1967.

We understand, however, that the sponsors of this bill are advocating opening up this agreement to further remove liability for companies who surveil Californians and listen to their conversations. A reversal of that agreement is unacceptable and belies the sponsors' arguments that they are protecting small businesses. A push to open up wiretapping and other provisions of the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA) to provide a retroactive liability shield would gut existing jury verdicts on appeal. This renewed effort makes clear that the sponsor's goal is to shield big tech companies from liability when they put profits over privacy rights, including going so far as to record our sensitive reproductive health information without our consent.

The sponsors' efforts make clear that, for them, this bill is not about protecting small businesses but instead is about protecting massive companies from accountability when they violate their users' privacy. California as a state has taken a strong stance against the campaign to criminalize reproductive rights and to target and surveil immigrant communities. The changes that the sponsors have been fighting for would allow immigrants' locations to be shared with ICE, LGBTQ+ individuals to be outed or tracked, abortion seekers to be surveilled, and even lawmakers to be monitored during policy negotiations. An expansion of SB 690 would allow tech billionaires to rewrite the rules to increase their profits and avoid accountability at the cost of exposing immigrants, people seeking reproductive

healthcare, and queer communities to massive invasions of privacy. Allowing big tech to wiretap stands in direct contrast to the strong and affirmative stance California has taken to protect our most vulnerable communities.

CIPA was enacted in 1967 to protect Californians from all forms of unauthorized surveillance, regardless of the technology used. Courts have consistently affirmed that CIPA applies to commercial actors, including large tech companies like Google, Meta, and Oracle, when they secretly intercept and record user data without consent. The sponsor's ongoing efforts to gut these protections goes far beyond what most Californians–and most Americans–would expect or tolerate when it comes to their privacy. Everyday Californians who have done nothing more than go online could be spied on, simply because a company wants to use their information to train AI or manipulate them into buying products—and would have no ability to hold companies accountable when they listen and surveil their most sensitive decisions.

Any expansion of SB690 would be extremely dangerous, given the surveillance and harassment of vulnerable communities taking place throughout the country. We urge the Assembly and the Governor to respect the agreement that was made between the author and the Chair of Asm. Privacy, protect small businesses, and not make further changes to the CIPA or SB 690.

We urge a NO vote if there are further changes made to SB690.

Sincerely,

Sydney Fang, Policy Director, AAPIs for Civic Empowerment

Xochitl Lopez-Ayala, Policy Advocacy Coordinator, ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Symphoni Barbee, Legislative Advocate, ACLU California Action

Janice O’Malley, Legislative and Political Action Representative, AFSCME California (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees)

Amira Hasenbush, Founding and Managing Partner, All Family Legal, PC

Edmund Velasco, President, American Federation of Musicians, Local 7

Lance Wilson, Policy & Communications, Director Anti Police-Terror Project

Lan Le, Policy Advocate, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)

Roma Kapoor, Director of Public Policy, ASUC Sexual Violence Commission

Lawrence Shine, Co-Chair, Bayard Rustin LGBTQ Coalition

Mariko Yoshihara, Policy Director, California Employment Lawyers Association

Elmer Lizardi, Legislative Advocate, California Federation of Labor Unions

John Bennett, Initiative Director, California Initiative for Technology and Democracy

Ted Mermin, Executive Director, California Low-Income Consumer Coalition

Christabel Randolph, Associate Director, Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP)

Travis Hall, Director for State Engagement, Center for Democracy and Technology

Tristan Brown, Legislative Director, CFT—A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

Jeannette Zanipatin, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

Saveena Takhar, General Counsel, Consumer Attorneys of California

Robert Herrell, Executive Director, Consumer Federation of California

Irene Kao, Executive Director, Courage California

Tina Rosales-Torres, Staff Attorney II, Disability Rights CA

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

Cynthia Amezcua Zamudio, State Policy and Advocacy Manager, FreeFrom

Ellen Chapman, Member, Steering Committee, Indivisible Sacramento

Lynn Berkley-Baskin, Co-Founder, Justice2Jobs Coalition

Ifeoma Ozoma, Director of Technology Policy, Kapor Center Advocacy

Shayla Wilson, Policy and Advocacy Advisor, La Defensa

Roxana Tynan, Senior Advisor, LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)

Carlos Gutierrez, Deputy Director, LGBT Tech

Leigh Ferrin, California Project Director, National Consumer Law Center

Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director, NextGen California

Tracy Rosenberg, Advocacy Director, Oakland Privacy

Karen Hernandez, Managing Director, Orange County Rapid Response Network (OCRRN)

Yadi Younse, Privacy Advocate, Privacy Defense Alliance

Jyotswaroop Bawa, Chief of Organizing and Campaigns, Rise Economy

David Heitstuman, Chief Executive Officer, Sacramento LGBT Community Center

Brian Hofer, Executive Director, Secure Justice

Victoria Copeland, Co-Founder, Survivors+Allies

Samantha Gordon, Chief Advocacy Officer, TechEquity Action

Marjorie Connolly, Communications Director, Tech Oversight California

Kevin De Liban, President, TechTonic Justice

Jenna Sherman, Campaign Director, UltraViolet

Valery Reyna, Advocacy Coordinator, Viet Rainbow of Orange County

Felix Huang, Policy and Research Coordinator, Warehouse Worker Resource Center

Neil Martin, Tech Justice Coordinator, Working Partnerships USA

Emily Zamora, Campaigns and Policy Coordinator, Youth Justice Coalition