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**A Resolution Encouraging Stronger and Consistent Consumer Data Privacy Protections Across the Internet Ecosystem**

**COMMITTEE: Telecommunications (TEL) RESOLUTION:** TEL-18-01

1. **WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women)
2. recognizes that the internet is a critical tool that empowers users, drives innovation, facilitates
3. economic opportunity, and otherwise serves as a vital tool for social interaction, self-expression,
4. and community organizing; and
5. **WHEREAS**, the internet is increasingly fundamental to our democracy and to full participation in
6. American life, allowing government to be more open, transparent, accountable, and responsive,
7. and citizens to be more engaged and relevant in decision-making processes; and
8. **WHEREAS**, minority communities and younger adults are among the most active and intense
9. users of the internet and social media services, positioning them as the most immediate
10. beneficiaries of innovative new services;[[1]](#footnote-1) and
11. **WHEREAS**, use of online services like social media and ecommerce platforms and search
12. providers entails the collection of significant amounts of personal information, a practice that
13. supports targeted advertising, which allows many internet-based companies to offer their services
14. online at no cost to the consumer; and
15. **WHEREAS**, the scope of such data collection is oftentimes unknown to users, with the details
16. buried within terms of service agreements and privacy policies that are too long and too complex
17. to be understood by the average user; and
18. **WHEREAS**, internet-based companies have significant economic incentives to gather as much
19. personal information about users as possible in an effort to better target online advertisements, a
20. service for which advertisers are willing to pay a premium; and
21. **WHEREAS**, online data collection techniques include not only the collection of personal
22. information evident from a user’s interaction with a particular website or service on a specific
23. device, but also, in many cases, the tracking of a user across other websites,
24. services, and devices; and
25. **WHEREAS**, taken together, these practices are tantamount to the kind of surveillance that could
26. be used to discriminate against people of color, immigrants, and other vulnerable communities; and
27. **WHEREAS**, events over the last few years have made clear that the data collected and monetized
28. by companies online is vulnerable to hacking and misuse by good and bad actors; and
29. **WHEREAS**, public opinion polls have observed growing support for the regulation of internet-
30. based companies’ data collection practices and privacy protections;[[2]](#footnote-2) and
31. **WHEREAS**, policymakers at every level of government have begun examining how best to protect
32. consumer online data by, among other things, detailing specific rights and protections regarding
33. the information shared, wittingly and unwittingly, by consumers when online and offline; and
34. **WHEREAS**, there is growing consensus that Congressional action on a bipartisan and technology-
35. neutral basis is needed to provide a national framework that ensures all Americans can participate
36. freely and safely in the internet ecosystem; and
37. **WHEREAS**, legislation must be comprehensive to assure that online users have a consistent and
38. predictable set of privacy rights and expectations regardless of the services they are using or the
39. type of entity that is collecting their data; and
40. **WHEREAS**, requiring every entity in the internet ecosystem – internet service providers, social
41. media and electronic commerce platforms, search providers, software developers, operating
42. systems, data brokers, and devices manufacturers – to follow the same rules is critical to assuring
43. such consistency and predictability.
44. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative
45. Women (NOBEL Women) affirms that permanent, comprehensive, bipartisan federal legislation is
46. necessary to assure a thriving internet ecosystem across; and
47. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that federal legislation must apply equally across the ecosystem
48. and include, among other things, requirements regarding the maintenance of sufficiently
49. understandable data collection disclosures and privacy policies; prohibitions on anticompetitive
50. behavior; the enumeration of affirmative consumer rights regarding their online data; and
51. safeguards to police against discriminatory activities that might arise from the misuse of personal
52. information; and
53. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the
54. United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of
55. Representatives and United States Senate, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal
56. Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, State Attorneys General, and
57. other federal, state, and local government officials as appropriate.

 Introduced by: The Honorable Valencia Seay

 Georgia State Senate

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1. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/08/19/the-demographics-of-social-media-users/> Seay 1of 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/americans-are-skeptical-facebook-can-protect-user-data-cbs-news-poll/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)