



Testimony of Appriss, Inc.

IN SUPPORT OF HB 2084 THE PREPAID TELEPHONE SECURITY ACT

Before the House Telecommunications Committee
February 19, 2015



Appriss Inc.
10401 Linn Station Road | Louisville, KY
appriss.com



Honorable Members of the Telecommunications Committee:

My name is Alecia Webb-Edgington. I am the Director of Business Development for Appriss. It is an honor and a pleasure to be presenting to this committee today. Before I provide more details regarding Appriss, I would like to share a portion of my resume in an effort to clarify my role at Appriss and my testimony here today. I am a retired Kentucky State Trooper, retiring at the rank of Major, Chief Information Officer, for the agency. Additionally, I served as the Executive Director for the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security during the Fletcher Administration, and my final position in State Government was that of State Representative serving the 63rd District. In September, 2012, I was employed by Appriss in my current role.

Appriss is a public safety information technology company that was founded in 1994 to automate victim notification. Since 1994, Appriss has expanded its portfolio to include providing technology, data and solutions to: local, state and federal agencies, insurance companies, healthcare providers, pharmacies and retailers 24x7x365. Additionally, these solutions focus on preventing fraud, mitigating risk, fighting crime, ensuring compliance, increasing safety and most importantly saving lives.

Today, I am here to testify in support of HB 2084, The Prepaid Telephone Security Act. This legislation would require individuals who purchase prepaid mobile devices provide verifiable names and addresses at the point of sale. Currently, this is not a requirement when purchasing prepaid mobile service. These devices have become the communication system of choice for some individuals that are participating in criminal activity. It is a method to circumvent law enforcement by eliminating identifying information. Recognizing that Kansas is on the forefront of groundbreaking legislation, I understand, as does the sponsor of this legislation and the members of this august body, that there are concerns regarding infringement of personal privacy to include the disclosure of personal identifiable information. Currently, every person that has a mobile device

that was purchased utilizing a signed contract for same, is providing a verifiable name and address. The aforementioned information is currently available to investigators upon securing the appropriate court orders or subpoena. This legislation would provide the law enforcement community access to the same information on prepaid telephone consumers that is currently available for patrons that sign contracts.

Appriss currently provides a similar service for the state of Kansas with the product NPLEx. We have been providing this service for KBI and the Board of Pharmacy since April, 2011. This is a solution that monitors the retail sale of pseudoephedrine to reduce the utilization of that product in methamphetamine labs. Similar to the solution that is being described in Section 2 of this bill, a repository of information, to include name and address of consumer, is retained regarding purchases of pseudoephedrine. This information is limited to law enforcement use only for investigatory and evidentiary purposes, and requires appropriate court orders or subpoena to access the data.

In addition to 2048, there are similar bills Kansas legislators are considering to assist law enforcement efforts to keep their communities safe and secure. SB 11 Sponsored by Senators Peterson, King, McGinn and O'Donnell, if passed, would require scrap metal dealers to electronically post each transaction via secure web portal with seller photograph to assist law enforcement in tracking the sale of stolen scrap metal. SB 13 Sponsored by Senator Smith, if passed, would allow law enforcement and victims of crime to receive notification via telephone, e-mail or text message on the status change of someone that is incarcerated in the state of Kansas.

Appriss is keenly aware of the criticality in protecting personal identifiable information. Appriss recognizes and uses the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Policy for Information Security to guide its control environment for applicable applications housing criminal justice information. Aside from the technical control environment, Appriss requires all employees and contractors to pass a criminal background check. We have a tier 3 secure facility and serve as the back-up for the National Law

Enforcement Telecommunication System which is the premiere interstate justice and public safety network in the nation for the exchange of law enforcement-, criminal justice-, and public safety-related information. Therefore, without fear of contradiction, I am confident that the solution proposed in this legislation can be developed in such a manner to address all issues regarding privacy protection and security.

It is my opinion that no one expects this legislation alone would deter criminal activity. However, this repository would provide a tool for law enforcement to utilize in the event that perpetrators use these devices in the commission of criminal acts.

The alternative to this legislation is continue with the current state of affairs by allowing individuals that purchase prepaid telephone service an exclusion to providing a verifiable name and address as required by current contractual consumers of telephone service.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to present today. I am subject to any questions the committee may have.