



Testimony in Support of SB 304

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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Chairwoman Warren and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 304 which removes the sunset provision in the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Privacy Act. Opportunity Solutions Project (OSP), is a nonprofit organization that advocates for state and federal policies that limit the role of government, while protecting the rights of its citizens.

Currently the Contract Tracing Privacy Act are set to expire later this year on May 1, 2021. This bill was an important piece of legislation that allows the collection of information through contact tracing while, importantly, protecting the right to privacy of its citizens. Some of the important provisions included in the Contract Tracing Privacy Act are:

- Prohibiting a contact tracer from disclosing the identity of an infected person to a contact, and only contact data specifically authorized by the Secretary pursuant to rules and regulations could be collected as a part of contact tracing.
- Prohibits contact tracing from being conducted using any service or means that uses cellphone location data to identify or track, directly or indirectly, the movement of persons.
- No third party shall be required to collect or maintain data regarding infected persons or contacts for the purpose of contact tracing.
- In addition, the act requires contact data to be used only for the purposes of contact tracing and not for any other purpose.¹

OSP recognizes the importance for Kansas to have the tools and resources to ensure the safety, health, and wellness of Kansans. However, a robust response to COVID-19, or any public emergency, should not come at the expense of sacrificing the privacy and personal rights of its citizens.

OSP believes Senate Bill 304 strikes the right balance between allowing important data to be collected in response to future pandemics, while ensuring the private information of Kansans is not monetized and individual liberty and freedom is retained. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony and your consideration of this important legislation.

¹ <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/92563-kansas-introduces-the-covid-19-contact-tracing-privacy-act>