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The Senate of the State of Texas

Jane Nelson

Senate District 12

February 11, 2021

Committees:

FINANCE, CHAIR
TEXAS PRIVACY PROTECTION
ADVISORY COUNCIL, CO-CHAIR
TEXAS CYBERSECURITY COUNCIL
STATE AFFAIRS
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
MASS VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY

Jerry McGinty, Director
Legislative Budget Board
P.O. Box 12666
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. McGinty:

I am writing to request that the Legislative Budget Board staff initiate a survey to determine which agencies are producing and selling personal data and for what purpose and at what price.

It is clear from our first week of hearings that members the Senate Finance Committee are focused on protecting individual privacy. In order to do that, we need better information about the sale and dissemination of personally identifiable data across state government. The Legislature should know how much money is changing hands. That information is not clearly articulated in the General Appropriations Act. No one has been able to point me to a relevant financial report. Frankly, I am appalled by the lack of transparency about these funds -- as are members of the Committee.

All agencies, boards, commissions, the judiciary and institutions of higher education must participate in the survey, which should include the questions below.

If over the last five years you have sold or received any monetary compensation for providing personal data that you store or collect to an entity other than yourself, please respond with the following:

- The name of the purchasing person or entity;
- A description of the data that was sold;
- A description of what the data was going to be used for by the purchasing entity (if applicable);
- The amount received for selling the information, where the money is deposited and where it shows up in your budget or financial reports; and
- The statutory authority that that gives you the ability to sell the data.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Jane Nelson