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MEMBERSHIP OVER 30,000

New Jersey State  
**Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc.**  
158 Main Street Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

April 2, 2024

Dear Legislature:

*It has come to our attention that representatives of the Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA) and other data brokers are reaching out to legislators requesting amendments to "clarify" their responsibilities under Daniel's Law. I am writing in my capacity as President of the New Jersey State PBA to make clear that the State PBA will vigorously oppose any attempt to weaken Daniel's Law or provide data brokers with loopholes that will place our members' lives at risk in order to maximize the data industry's profits.*

I know you are well versed in the history of Daniel's Law. The Legislature has crafted the law to ensure that members of the Judiciary and public safety employees who wish to keep their personal information private can do so are no longer so easily targeted for violent attacks. Yet despite these protections and very clear rules, some data brokers continue to refuse to comply with the law. Because of this, members of the State PBA are party to lawsuits against some of the worst offending data brokers. We believe these lawsuits will be successful bringing these companies into compliance with New Jersey's law.

Let me be blunt. CDIA's lobbying efforts are designed to weaken Daniel's Law. They will argue that they need more time to comply. They will argue that they need to verify an applicant's identity. They will argue Daniel's Law prevents applicants from accessing credit reports, car loans and mortgages. They will argue that they don't want to protect "bad actors" and only want to give companies more direction about how to comply. This is all nonsense.

Daniel's Law simply says that our most at risk public servants can request that their home address and phone number be kept private and not be disclosed to others. It does not prevent that person from giving permission for disclosure, for example, to a mortgage company to run their credit. And it does not prevent that credit reporting agency from going through PRIVATE banking records to review an applicant's credit. Daniel's Law puts control of this personal information into the hands of the individuals so they can make their own choices as to how best to protect themselves and their families. The truth is these companies simply do not want to comply with the law because it cuts into their profits and might set a dangerous precedent: if New Jersey's effort to protect its public servants is successful, other states might take notice and seek to follow our lead.

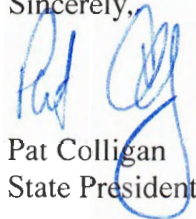
Recently we understand that thousands of our members, and others, received threatening letters from Lexis Nexis stating that – in response to the number of Daniel’s Law requests - the company would be freezing their credit. This threat was the worst kind of dishonesty. It appears to have been designed to frighten people into withdrawing their Daniel’s Law requests or risk their financial future being ruined. In stark contrast, many other companies have acted responsibly in complying with Daniel’s Law, proving that the protection afforded by the law is possible and supported by many “good actors” in the industry.

In addition, the lawsuits against the worst offending data brokers outlines numerous instances where our members have been placed in danger because these companies defiantly refuse to comply with Daniel’s Law. Does one more cop or judge need to be murdered using information too easily obtained from a data broker before the data industry gets that business as usual is not acceptable?

***I am therefore urging you to reject the misinformation and threats from the data industry and refuse their lobbying attempt to weaken Daniel’s Law for their profit and our danger.*** I would also ask respectfully that if you have been approached to sponsor a bill or are considering it, that you please contact me or Rob Nixon - cell (609) 578-0571 - to discuss what has been going on behind the scenes since Daniel’s Law was enacted.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Pat Colligan  
State President

c: Rob Nixon, Director of Government Affairs, NJ State PBA