



July 22, 2019

Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Public Participation in and Transparency of Senate Task Force on Privacy

Dear Senator Blackburn:

The Association for Computing Machinery, founded in 1947 as a non-profit and non-lobbying organization, is the nation's and the world's largest and longest-established society of individual professionals involved in virtually every aspect of computing. Our more than 100,000 members worldwide serve in government, industry, academia, and the public sector. Many, we are proud to say, have pioneered and continue to pursue the work on the cutting edge of computing that powers America's digital economy.

Through its U.S. Technology Policy Committee, which I'm privileged to chair, ACM also strives to provide expert and wholly apolitical technical information and analysis to Congress and policymakers throughout our government in the service of maximally informed technology policy. On behalf of the Committee, I write to you today to:

- thank you for establishing a new Senate Task Force on Privacy, an issue with which ACM and our Committee long has been engaged (as the attached 2018 Statement and Principles concerning "The Importance of Protecting Personal Privacy" illustrate);
- urge you to broaden the sources of input to the Task Force beyond industry to include expert individuals and institutions from every sector of society and the economy; and
- further maximize such input by providing public notice of the Task Force's meetings, conducting them in public, and (as for committee hearings) publishing a record of all proceedings.

ACM's U.S. Technology Policy Committee stands ready to assist you and the Task Force whenever and however our apolitical experts can further your understanding of computing-related technologies and issues at the core of today's most pressing privacy policy issues. We look forward to collaborating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Hendler". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

James A. Hendler, Chair

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