

To Whom This May Concern At the Federal Trade Commission Regarding Electronic Privacy Rule Changes for Children,

I'd like to thank the Federal Trade Commission for soliciting public input on proposed new rules by the FTC to protect children's privacy online. I strongly believe its time federal law caught up with technology. The last time Congress reformed the nation's electronic privacy laws was in 1986. All Americans not just children should have some privacy protections. The right to privacy is implied in the U.S. Constitution although not specifically mentioned.

With the unfortunate erosion of our civil liberties since the tragic 9/11 attacks resulting in the PATRIOT Act, warrantless unconstitutional wiretaps, erosion of our rights from unreasonable search and seizure that has occurred we need our privacy rights to be protected now more than ever. The telecom immunity bill should be repealed and all warrantless wiretapping of Americans communications stopped. That being said I believe it's time for Congress to update our nation's privacy laws to outlaw such abuses by government and/or corporations that erode our privacy in future.

However, that doesn't mean there aren't things regulators tasked with consumer protection can't do in the meantime. Regulators can and should do all they can to protect individual privacy online while ordinary citizens write their members of Congress asking legislators to update the country's privacy laws.

Clearly protecting the privacy of children is extremely important, as is protecting the privacy of all Americans. Since 1986 technology has greatly evolved I know this having been born in 1984 and having grown up through the 1980s and 1990s I've experienced the new technological changes that have occurred since then. In 1986 the Internet as we know it today did not yet exist at least it was not publicly available yet and broadband high speed Internet connections whether through wire-line or wireless services were non-existent.

Smart phones like the Apple iPhone, and modern tablet computers like Apple's iPad did not yet exist. Text messaging had not yet caught on as it has now. Not even the wired Internet was publicly available – today we have the wired web and the mobile web which is giving rise also to the social web. So as you can see technology has evolved a lot since 1986 it did not sit still as our country's privacy laws unfortunately have. It is time that privacy rules, regulations and laws be updated for the 21st Century.