

September 8, 2017
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Dear Senator Harris:

I am concerned about computer regulation. Many companies make extensive use of computers but regulations have not kept pace with the decades of rapid growth. There are serious issues with monopolies, under-compensation of contractors, secrecy by companies and extremely lax security. With security it seems that since the well publicized data loss by AOL in 2004 and the minimal repercussions they faced, companies have found that it is cheaper to ask forgiveness than to invest in effective security. Breaches involving, medical, financial, personal and (famously) political data have been widely reported. Identity theft based on such breaches has been rapidly increasing. Just this week there was a huge loss of financial data with no expected repercussions for the company and a revelation of illegal ad sales to Russia after adamant denials. With secrecy there are many algorithms used for financial, job placement, voting machines and judicial purposes which are kept secret, preventing meaningful oversight. There has been some piecemeal legislative response, typically focused on those abusing the data rather than the deeper pockets charged with protecting it. It is time to implement serious regulations on this gigantic industry.

Please assure me that you will work toward protecting consumer data.

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our responsible government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson