



### **SIA Statement on New Hampshire HB 1409**

The residents of New Hampshire have a long tradition of advocating for a limited form of government. That is why it is so surprising that the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee would consider passing HB 1409 — a bill that would expand the reach of state government into the decision-making authority of local governments and private, tax-paying businesses.

The Security Industry Association (SIA) and its members believe that HB 1409 is a far-reaching proposal in search of a problem. If this legislation is rushed through the legislative process without careful examination of its potential consequences, New Hampshire residents will be deprived of the benefits of a safe, secure, and efficient technology, and their security will be severely compromised.

SIA firmly believes that the broad restrictions proposed by HB 1409 to prevent government agencies and private businesses from authenticating identities through the use of biometric data reflects a significant misunderstanding of the security features and privacy safeguards of this widely-adopted technology. Rather than prevent the development of innovative biometrics-based identity management initiatives by businesses, schools, colleges, hospitals, and government agencies, SIA respectfully urges the committee to reject HB 1409 and instead pass legislation that would direct that a legislative study of the appropriate use of biometrics within identification cards be conducted.

The introduction of HB 1409 highlights the need to better educate the public about how biometric data is collected, stored, and used. SIA is fully committed to working with the legislature to dispel mythical perceptions about biometrics while addressing the legitimate data privacy issues associated with the use of this technology. Through the SIA Privacy Working Group, we are also determined to work closely with our members to inform the general public about the steps that are regularly taken to protect privacy and secure biometric data. SIA would welcome the opportunity to review any proposal that would prevent misuse or theft of biometric data. However, we do not think that imposing rigid prohibitions on the use of this valuable technology is the right way to address privacy concerns. Our proposal for a thoughtful study of the use of biometrics with input gathered from a broad spectrum of stakeholders is a responsible approach that balances the security and privacy needs of New Hampshire residents.

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