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ANGELA WOZNIAK
Assemblywoman 143rd District
Erie County

May 29, 2015

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing in response to the revelation that the state government is selling personal information obtained by the Department of Motor Vehicles to private, for-profit companies to the tune of \$60 million. Apparently, this is oftentimes being done without individual consent. In an age where identity theft and individual privacy rights are hot-button issues, selling personal information to the highest bidder must stop.

The DMV has claimed that this information is only being sold to insurance companies for ratings claims and employers seeking drivers. We have no idea if that's fully true, or what else companies are doing with this information after it's being sold. Are New Yorkers being targeted for ads for products and programs they don't want or need? And most importantly, we don't know if other state agencies are doing the same thing.

Is the Department of Health selling personal information to insurance and pharmaceutical companies? There are already concerns that Pierson, contracted by the Department of Education for testing, is using our children's personal information for financial gain. We must know where the line, or if there even is one, is being drawn.

New Yorkers have a right of consent for the use of their personal information. To sell it away to the highest bidder without our knowledge is a cynical cash-grab on the part of our state government is a gross abuse of our privacy rights. I urge you to fully disclose exactly how New Yorkers' personal information is being used and who it's being sold to, and to end this shameful practice immediately.

Respectfully,

Angela M. Wozniak
Member of Assembly
143rd District