



NYS FY22 Budget Testimony
2021 Joint Legislative Hearing - Public Protection
February 10, 2021

Tech:NYC is a nonprofit coalition of more than 800 technology companies in New York. We work with our members, governments, and community partners to foster a dynamic ecosystem so that New York remains the best place in the country to start and grow a tech company.

This year's budget will be the most consequential ever because of COVID-19's impact on New York State. We are encouraged that the proposed budget includes many positive policy frameworks to improve the lives of everyday New Yorkers.

Like all of you and your constituents, we and our members value consumer privacy. [A vast majority of New Yorkers](#) also rely on the digital services our members provide, which is why any legislation impacting them must be carefully drafted to balance consumers' interests with the numerous public benefits derived from digital services. At a time when the global pandemic has made technology critical to community building, small business survival, and remote learning, it is essential that accessible and affordable consumer technologies continue to be developed to meet today's massive challenges. This development can only continue if a new privacy law is carefully drafted to minimize confusion and compliance processes.

It is also worth noting the significant economic impact that the technology sector has had on New York's state and local economies. For example, in New York City, tech companies are the only employers who [have doubled down on New York during COVID-19](#), signing new leases and publicly promising to increase hiring in New York State.

On all of the proposals related to technology in the Governor's Executive Budget, we offer our technical expertise as the legislature evaluates and drafts responses to them. Please consider us a resource on proposals within the Public Protection and General Government Article VII, including the Governor's proposed New York Data Accountability and Transparency Act (Part II). Our hope is that we can be helpful in the coming months on this issue.

Enacting and complying with a new state privacy law is time consuming and expensive - especially for smaller tech companies, small businesses, nonprofits, and cultural institutions. We have a number of suggestions for making the current proposal's requirements less confusing for both consumers and digital services companies. Should the legislature not be able to come to a budget agreement that addresses the concerns of the wide and varied interests in New York's tech, business, nonprofit, and community-based stakeholders, we recommend taking a



thorough approach to reviewing more extensive input from technologists and small business experts and shaping legislation based on effective examples from other states.

As mentioned above, we are committed to working with government partners on the important issue of consumer privacy. We look forward to discussing this issue with you all soon, and please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Naples at Ryan@technyc.org.