

EXPERTS SAY:

SENATOR KLOBUCHAR'S ANTI-TECH BILL WILL BREAK PHONE SECURITY

(S. 2992 AND H.R. 3816)

Senators Klobuchar, Grassley, and other cosponsors introduced S. 2992, the "American Innovation and Choice Online Act" (AICOA). Experts who have analyzed the details of the bill and how it works have come to a clear conclusion:

The bill will break established systems of mobile security that prevent data from being accessible by third parties.

Kir Nuthi NetChoice

"Unfortunately, this bill would require platforms to provide third-party actors with the ability to access or inter-operate in their platform— opening up their proprietary tech to considerable risks and security holes. And that could mean the difference between us trusting to feel safe online and the platforms we use handing over our personal data to third-party providers and foreign corporations."

ACT | The App Association

"Section 2(a)(2) of S. 2992 would essentially prohibit software platforms from removing bad actors, which would flood our devices with the associated privacy and security risks and make consumers rationally unwilling to download software from companies that lack a major public profile."

Krisztina Pusok and Edward Longe The American Consumer Institute

"But if Klobuchar's goal is to 'ensure that popular tech features, such as pre-installed phone apps or convenient Google Maps features prominently located within Google searches, are not restricted,' the draft bill doesn't do that at all."

Jennifer Huddleston NetChoice

S. 2992 "dilutes [businesses'] ability to respond with what consumers want—better security and privacy options. And as a result, Klobuchar's antitrust proposal would likely harm users' privacy online and create more harm to consumers than the current tenuous claims about tech giants' market behavior."

Tatyana Bolton R Street Institute

"They try to address antitrust concerns, but by doing so, they undermine the security of the networks the covered platforms control. First, they require more data to be shared and interoperable, opening up new and undetermined avenues for security threats and data leaks through unverified third parties."

"Second, as they require interoperability with third parties, they restrict or reduce the ability of entities themselves to use data available across their own platforms to create cheaper, more effective solutions for their customers."

"Third, these provisions include unacceptable obstacles to security improvements through conditioning updates and patches on FTC approval prior to implementation. Lastly, provisions in these bills impinge on the work of data security and privacy experts who are making strides to improve security through comprehensive legislation, and may be counterproductive to overarching data security goals."