

Privacy: Consumers Remain Protected Under Existing Laws

The recent congressional action repealing the Federal Communication Commission's new broadband privacy rules had no impact on consumer privacy because the rules had not even taken effect yet.

Consumer privacy continues to be protected by robust federal and state privacy laws:

- AT&T remains supportive of robust and consistent privacy protections that apply across the internet.
- The FCC retains enforcement authority over internet providers and requires them to protect their customers' personal information. Internet providers must obtain your permission to sell your web browsing history or sensitive information.
- Health, financial and children's data are further protected under additional federal laws that remain fully in force. Below are just a few examples of these additional protections:
 - The [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#) (HIPAA) protects your medical records and certain health information.
 - The [Electronic Communications Privacy Act](#) (ECPA) protects the privacy of your electronic communications.
 - The [Children's Online Privacy Protection Act](#) (COPPA) protects data collected from children under age 13.
- Internet providers must also comply with state privacy laws, including data breach notification laws. States continue to have the authority to enforce privacy and other consumer protections without any need for new legislation.

AT&T's commitment to our customers' privacy has not changed:

- AT&T's [Privacy Policy](#) gives you control over your personal information. You can opt out of AT&T using or sharing your data for marketing and advertising programs.
- AT&T and other major internet providers have committed to additional legally enforceable [Privacy Principles](#), which cover data security and data breach notifications, among other things. These principles are consistent with the FTC privacy framework that applies to all other Internet companies, including search engines, ad networks, data brokers and social networks.

Internet privacy laws should apply on a nationwide basis:

- Congress' recent action was not the "last word" on internet privacy laws.
- The chairs of the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission have vowed to [work together](#) to restore the FTC's unified privacy framework to ensure federal privacy laws are effective and consistently applied to all online companies in the internet ecosystem.