

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Advocates Applaud Federal Consumer Agency's Announcement to Rein in Data Brokers

Washington DC – Today, federal regulators announced plans to close a data privacy loophole impacting hundreds of millions of consumers as part of a package of reforms aimed at data brokers, including the issuance of formal regulations. In an announcement at the White House, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Rohit Chopra publicly committed to addressing the commercial sale of consumer's credit header data as part of its rulemaking efforts under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), a move praised by groups around the country.

This announcement comes after months of [pressure](#) from immigrant rights, consumer rights, and privacy groups urging the agency to “use the full force of its authority” to rein in data brokers – entities that aggregate and sell personal data – by clarifying that the FCRA protects consumers from unregulated disclosures of their credit header data, which includes such sensitive personal information as names, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and birth dates. During the CFPB's recent [public comment period](#) on data broker regulations, over 7,000 public comments were submitted, with many urging the CFPB to protect consumer sensitive data and privacy.

“The CFPB's decision to close the credit header data loophole is one small step to keeping our communities safe and whole,” said **Akina Younge, director of movement collaborations at the UCLA Center on Race and Digital Justice**. “This demand came from the work of organizers, advocates, and directly affected communities. The CFPB taking action shows that we do have the power to win meaningful change. And we will continue to fight – there's still more work to do to stop the harm of the data broker industry.”

“Data brokers' unethical practices can and have led people to be denied jobs, benefits, housing, and even arrested and deported. Curbing their behavior is good for all consumers, especially those already vulnerable in our communities,” said **Jacinta Gonzalez, Senior Campaign Organizer, with Mijente**. “Third parties, including police and ICE, have been quick to take advantage of the massive data the data broker industry has accumulated, putting our security and livelihood in jeopardy. For these reasons, civil rights groups have called on the CFPB to take action and are committed to

working with the agency to ensure that data brokers are held accountable for their practices.”

“We applaud the CFPB for using their authority to address the credit header loophole and rein in the data broker industry,” said **Laura Rivera, senior staff attorney with Just Futures Law**. “Data brokers have taken advantage of these data loopholes to profit immensely from selling the personal information of anyone and everyone. This is a huge step in protecting our privacy, civil liberties, but most importantly the people whose lives are impacted by their sensitive data being sold to the highest bidder.”

“The CFPB’s decision is an important first step that is needed to address the structural violence embedded in the data economy. Data brokers wield a tremendous amount of power to fuel policing and systemic inequities as regulations have allowed these companies to sell virtually unlimited access to our personal data. This action is very much needed and called for,” said **Mizue Aizeki, Executive Director of the Surveillance Resistance Lab**.

“We are pleased that the CFPB is taking a crucial step toward reining in the data broker industry, whose rancid business model relies on harvesting personal information and selling it to aggressive debt collectors and other predatory actors,” said **Deyanira Del Río, Co-Director of New Economy Project**. “We urge policymakers to take further steps to protect the privacy and civil rights of immigrants, people of color, and women, and to eliminate practices by credit reporting agencies and other bottom-feeding companies that effectively block people from housing, jobs, and other economic opportunities.”

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About Just Futures Law: *Just Futures Law is a transformative legal organization that defends and builds the power of immigrants’ rights and criminal justice organizers and base-building community groups working to disrupt and dismantle our deportation and mass incarceration systems. Follow us @JustFuturesLaw.*

About Mijente: *Mijente is a Latinx/Chicanx political, digital, and grassroots organizing hub that seeks to strengthen and increase the participation of Latinx people in the broader movements for racial, economic, climate, and gender justice through grassroots organizing, policy advocacy, and electoral mobilization. Mijente anchors the #NoTechforICE campaign (www.notechforICE.com).*

About the Surveillance Resistance Lab: *The Surveillance Resistance Lab is a think and act tank focused on state and corporate surveillance as one of the greatest threats to migrant justice, racial equity, economic justice, and democracy. We challenge the surveillance state and how it increases corporate power and state violence as not just a threat to privacy, but also as a threat to fundamental rights. To counter this threat, the Surveillance Resistance Lab engages in investigative research, campaign incubation, advocacy, and organizing. We are committed to movement building to fight for accountability and government divestment from technologies that expand systems of control and punishment (as well as suppress dissent and difference) in public spaces, schools, workplaces, and at and across borders.*

www.surveillanceresistancelab.org.

About the UCLA Center on Race and Digital Justice: *The UCLA Center on Race and Digital Justice engages with a variety of network touch points including policy makers, scholars, activists, tech workers, and storytellers. With this community, we foster critical, sustainable, and scalable change at the intersection of race and digital justice. The Center focuses on who holds power, how to redistribute power, and the ways in which data and technology reflect power structures. We stay grounded, not abstract – it is the real experiences of people that motivate us, and real people whom we work with to make change.*

About New Economy Project: *New Economy Project works with community groups to build a new economy that works for all, rooted in racial and social justice, cooperation, neighborhood equity, and ecological sustainability. Our work focuses on campaigns to challenge corporations that harm communities and perpetuate inequality and poverty; and efforts to build strong local economies, by fostering democratically-structured, community-controlled initiatives such as worker cooperatives, community development credit unions, community land trusts, and mutual housing.*