A BILL

To establish duties for online service providers with respect to end user data that such providers collect and use.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Data Care Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:
(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) **END USER.**—The term “end user” means an individual who engages with an online service provider or logs into or uses services provided by the online service provider over the internet or any other digital network.

(3) **INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING DATA.**—The term “individual identifying data” means any data that is—

(A) collected over the internet or any other digital network; and

(B) linked, or reasonably linkable, to—

(i) a specific end user; or

(ii) a computing device that is associated with or routinely used by an end user.

(4) **ONLINE SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The term “online service provider” means an entity that—

(A) is engaged in interstate commerce over the internet or any other digital network; and

(B) in the course of business, collects individual identifying data about end users, including in a manner that is incidental to the business conducted.
3

(5) SENSITIVE DATA.—The term “sensitive data” means any data that includes—

(A) a social security number;

(B) personal information (as defined in section 1302 of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501)) collected from a child (as defined in such section 1302);

(C) a driver’s license number, passport number, military identification number, or any other similar number issued on a government document used to verify identity;

(D) a financial account number, credit or debit card number, or any required security code, access code, or password that is necessary to permit access to a financial account of an individual;

(E) unique biometric data such as a fingerprint, voice print, a retina or iris image, or any other unique physical representation;

(F) information sufficient to access an account of an individual, such as user name and password or email address and password;
(G) the first and last name of an individual, or first initial and last name, or other unique identifier in combination with—

(i) the month, day, and year of birth of the individual;

(ii) the maiden name of the mother of the individual; or

(iii) the past or present precise geolocation of the individual;

(H) information that relates to—

(i) the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; or

(ii) the provision of health care to an individual; and

(I) the nonpublic communications or other nonpublic user-created content of an individual.

SEC. 3. PROVIDER DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An online service provider shall fulfill the duties of care, loyalty, and confidentiality under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively, of subsection (b).

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) DUTY OF CARE.—An online service provider shall—
(A) reasonably secure individual identifying data from unauthorized access; and

(B) subject to subsection (d), promptly inform an end user of any breach of the duty described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph with respect to sensitive data of that end user.

(2) DUTY OF LOYALTY.—An online service provider may not use individual identifying data, or data derived from individual identifying data, in any way that—

(A) will benefit the online service provider to the detriment of an end user; and

(B)(i) will result in reasonably foreseeable and material physical or financial harm to an end user; or

(ii) would be unexpected and highly offensive to a reasonable end user.

(3) DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—An online service provider—

(A) may not disclose or sell individual identifying data to, or share individual identifying data with, any other person except as consistent with the duties of care and loyalty under paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;
6

(B) may not disclose or sell individual identifying data to, or share individual identifying data with, any other person unless that person enters into a contract with the online service provider that imposes on the person the same duties of care, loyalty, and confidentiality toward the applicable end user as are imposed on the online service provider under this subsection; and

(C) shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the practices of any person to whom the online service provider discloses or sells, or with whom the online service provider shares, individual identifying data fulfill the duties of care, loyalty, and confidentiality assumed by the person under the contract described in subparagraph (B), including by auditing, on a regular basis, the data security and data information practices of any such person.

(c) APPLICATION OF DUTIES TO THIRD PARTIES.—If an online service provider transfers or otherwise provides access to individual identifying data to another person, the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) shall apply to such person with respect to
such data in the same manner that such requirements apply to the online service provider.

(d) Expansion of Duty To Inform Regarding Breaches.—The Commission may promulgate regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to apply the breach notification requirement under subsection (b)(1)(B) with respect to specific categories of individual identifying data other than sensitive data, as the Commission determines necessary.

(e) Exceptions.—

(1) Regulations.—The Commission may promulgate regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to exempt categories of online service providers or persons described in subsection (c) from the requirement under subsection (a) or subsection (c) (as applicable).

(2) Considerations.—In promulgating regulations under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider, among other factors—

(A) the privacy risks posed by the use of individual identifying data by an online service provider or person described in subsection (c) based on—

(i) the size of the provider or person;
(ii) the complexity of the offerings of
the provider;

(iii) the nature and scope of the ac-
tivities of the provider or person; and

(iv) the sensitivity of the consumer in-
formation handled by the provider or per-
son; and

(B) the costs and benefits of applying the
requirement under subsection (a) or subsection
(c) (as applicable) to online service providers or
persons with particular combinations of charac-
teristics considered under subparagraph (A) of
this paragraph.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Enforcement by Commission.—

(1) Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Prac-
tices.—A violation of section 3 by an online service
provider or a person described in section 3(c) shall
be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair
or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section
18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act
(15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) Powers of Commission.—

(A) In General.—Except as provided in
subparagraph (C), the Commission shall enforce
this Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this Act.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), any person who violates section 3 shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(C) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMON CARRIERS.—Notwithstanding section 4 or 5(a)(2) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44, 45(a)(2)) or any jurisdictional limitation of the Commission, the Commission shall also enforce this Act, in the same manner provided in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph, with respect to—

(i) organizations not organized to carry on business for their own profit or that of their members; and
(ii) common carriers subject to the
Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
151 et seq.).

(3) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The Commiss-
ion shall promulgate regulations under this Act in
accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States
Code.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to paragraph
(3), in any case in which the attorney general of a
State has reason to believe that an interest of the
residents of the State has been or is threatened or
adversely affected by the engagement of an online
service provider or a person described in section 3(c)
in a practice that violates section 3, the attorney
general of the State may, as parens patriae, bring
a civil action against the online service provider or
person on behalf of the residents of the State in an
appropriate district court of the United States to ob-
tain appropriate relief, including civil penalties in
the amount determined under paragraph (2).

(2) CIVIL PENALTIES.—An online service pro-
vider or person described in section 3(c) that is
found, in an action brought under paragraph (1), to
have knowingly or repeatedly violated section 3 shall,
in addition to any other penalty otherwise applicable
to a violation of section 3, be liable for a civil pen-
alty equal to the amount calculated by multiplying—

(A) the greater of—

(i) the number of days during which
the online service provider or person was
not in compliance with that section; or
(ii) the number of end users who were
harmed as a result of the violation, by

(B) an amount not to exceed the maximum
civil penalty for which a person, partnership, or
corporation may be liable under section
5(m)(1)(A) of the Federal Trade Commission
Act (15 U.S.C. 45(m)(1)(A)) (including any ad-
justments for inflation).

(3) Rights of Federal Trade Commiss-

(A) Notice to Federal Trade Commiss-

(i) In general.—Except as provided
in clause (iii), the attorney general of a
State shall notify the Commission in writ-
ing that the attorney general intends to
bring a civil action under paragraph (1)
before initiating the civil action.
(ii) CONTENTS.—The notification required under clause (i) with respect to a civil action shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a State to provide the notification required under clause (i) before initiating a civil action under paragraph (1), the attorney general shall notify the Commission immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(B) INTERVENTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—The Commission may—

(i) intervene in any civil action brought by the attorney general of a State under paragraph (1); and

(ii) upon intervening—

(I) be heard on all matters arising in the civil action; and

(II) file petitions for appeal of a decision in the civil action.

(4) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers con-
ferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to—

(A) conduct investigations;

(B) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(C) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(5) Preemptive action by federal trade commission.—If the Commission institutes a civil action or an administrative action with respect to a violation of section 3, the attorney general of a State may not, during the pendency of the action, bring a civil action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission based on the same set of facts giving rise to the alleged violation with respect to which the Commission instituted the action.

(6) Venue; service of process.—

(A) Venue.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or
(ii) another court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

(7) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other consumer protection officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.
SEC. 5. NONENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

WAIVING RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.

The rights and remedies provided under this Act may not be waived or limited by contract or otherwise.

SEC. 6. RELATION TO OTHER PRIVACY AND SECURITY LAWS.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to—

(1) modify, limit, or supersede the operation of any privacy or security provision in any other Federal or State statute or regulation; or

(2) limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 3 shall apply with respect to an online service provider or person described in section 3(c) on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.