

Commission on Facial Recognition

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To: Manning, Jacqueline O. (HOU) <Jacqueline.O.Manning@mahouse.gov>

Dear members of the commission,

I am writing to provide some comments about the use of facial recognition technology in Massachusetts. I respectfully ask that the Commission recommend the legislature strengthen existing facial recognition law to ensure Massachusetts residents and visitors are shielded from discriminatory, dragnet surveillance, and other harms.

I am appreciative of the work that the Legislature did last session in passing police accountability legislation that created better standards for police professionalization as well as stronger limitations on the use of force. But there is more work to be done.

I think there needs to be higher standards regarding requests to use facial surveillance. I think there also needs to be more protections for defendants who have been subject to the use of facial recognition systems.

We need strong regulations to ensure facial surveillance does not infringe on people's civil rights and civil liberties.

Thank you,
Scott Lerer