FACIAL RECOGNITION: HF 2048/SF 129

Facial recognition technology is everywhere, yet it is deeply flawed and largely unregulated. It can be life-threatening when in the hands of law enforcement. That's why the ACLU-MN is working to ban the use of facial recognition technology by government entities throughout Minnesota.

THE PROBLEM

Studies show that facial recognition technology is biased. The error rate for white men is less than 1%, compared to 34.7% for darker-skinned women, according to a 2018 study published by MIT Media Lab. The criminal legal system already disproportionately targets and incarcerates people of color. Using technology that has documented problems correctly identifying people of color is dangerous. Facial recognition technology also:

- Gives the authorities blanket and indiscriminate surveillance ability to track people.
- Can target and identify vulnerable groups such as immigrants and refugees.
- Can be used to track your personal movements including going to abortion clinics or drug treatment.
- Violates our constitutional rights.

THE SOLUTION

The ACLU-MN supports banning the use of facial recognition technology by all government entities in Minnesota. More than a dozen large cities have banned the technology, including Minneapolis, Boston, and San Francisco.

If Minnesota adopts a policy to ban the technology, our state would be a model for the rest of the nation as the first state to do so.