ACLU
Minnesota

PRIVACY & TECHNOLOGY

Surveillance technology use is developing at a rate that far outstrips current laws. New technologies are often deployed without any regulation, transparency or oversight. Many of these technologies threaten our civil liberties because they are powerful, invasive and particularly suited to secret surveillance. In 2021, the ACLU-MN will be focusing on protecting civil liberties from invasive surveillance technology.

Ban Facial Recognition Technology

What is Facial Recognition Technology?

Broadly speaking, facial recognition technology is technology that, when paired with other surveillance tools such as cameras, attempts to identify a person by matching an image of them with photos in databases.

What's the problem?

Facial recognition technology is highly invasive and threatens our general right to be anonymous in public. It is also dangerously inaccurate. For people of color, non-binary individuals, women, and the very young or very old, the technology does not generate accurate results. The risks associated with a false identification can be serious, particularly for low-income communities and communities of color. Recently, cases have emerged of arrests based on an erroneous match generated by facial recognition. Minnesota state law does not currently regulate this technology, so it is extremely difficult to know how, when and where it is being or has been used.

What's the solution?

HF 1196 would ban Minnesota law enforcement agencies from using facial recognition technology and any information collected via such technology.

Contact ACLU-MN Policy Director **Julia Decker** at jdecker@aclu-mn.org or visit **https://www.aclu-mn.org/mnleg-2021** for more information about our legislative priorities.