

From: vince polito
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Feedback on the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 4:29:28 PM

I strongly object to the proposed legislation for the following reasons:

- Although information provided implies that the bill does not compel technology providers to provide a 'backdoor' to their services, this is inconsistent with the list of acts or things in section 317E. In particular sections 317E 1a, 1e, 1f, 1h and 1i all could be used individually or in combination to provide systematic weaknesses in technology services.

- More broadly, and crucially, the certain effect of this legislation is that organised criminals will use decentralised services or services based in countries that are uncooperative with Australia. This will mean that criminals will be unaffected by this legislation. Non criminal Australians will be subject to increased surveillance risk. In this way the bill is certain to fail in its aims.

- The biggest concern about this legislation is this: although I am confident that current Australian security organisations genuinely would act fairly and proportionally to use these powers for just means, providing the legal capacity for these organisations to do so opens the door for future, less ethical iterations of these organisations to abuse citizens. It seems extremely likely that at some point in the future Australia will have a more oppressive government than it does now. Adopting these laws now will make life harder and more dangerous for citizens at that future time. This seems obviously a likely future outcome and I cannot understand how current proponents of this bill discount the negative impacts of this.

Vince Polito