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**COMMENTS ON 10-H 7775, AN ACT RELATING TO  
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS  
March 9, 2010**

This bill would allow police to obtain certain subscriber Internet service information without the need of a warrant or other judicial intervention, or any probable cause. The RI ACLU has opposed this bill for a number of years and continues to do so. We believe its adoption amounts to a very serious erosion of privacy rights.

For purposes of written testimony, we refer committee members to the attached letter that was submitted on the bill last year by the partners at the law firm of DeLuca & Weizenbaum. We believe it succinctly explains the dangers of this bill.

Although our objections to the bill cover many issues, the only one we wish to briefly address in this written testimony is the argument by proponents who seek to minimize the true privacy impact of this bill. They state that the only information that law enforcement will be able to directly obtain under this bill from Internet service providers is so-called non-content information. That may be true, but indirectly, obtaining that information will lead to wide-ranging searches of people's computers and their contents. That is the whole point of obtaining the subscriber information in the first place. Further, in this wireless age, the targeted computers may often not even be the computer for which the information was sought in the first place.

We urge the committee's opposition to the legislation.