

The TLDR Act

James P. Steyer, *Founder and CEO, Common Sense Media*

"The Terms-of-service Labeling, Design, and Readability Act will make it easier for consumers to protect their privacy because it requires companies to create easily readable summary terms of service statements and facilitate independent analysis and enforcement of these terms. Consent is meaningless when terms of service are long, dense, and full of legalese, making it unnecessarily, or maybe intentionally, difficult for the average person to read through and understand. Congress and the states and most Americans are increasingly focused on issues around data privacy and other aspects of the internet that need guardrails. This bill is an important step in that direction, by making terms of service more readable for consumers and holding companies accountable for what they put in these terms. Senators Lujan and Cassidy and Representative Trahan should be applauded for introducing this important bill."

Matti Schneider, *Director, Open Terms Archive*

"Large-scale digital service providers have a systemic responsibility in the experience of every user of the Internet. Their terms of services are rules edicted unilaterally that constrain this experience in ways that can be brutal or subtle, but that always tend to leave their users powerless. The information asymmetry between operators and users in what is allowed and what is not on online platforms makes it impossible for citizens to make an informed choice on the services they want to use, and gives undue competitive advantage to the companies that work to make their terms unreadable instead of favorizing actors that try to distinguish themselves by being more ethical and respectful."

"By improving the readability of the main points of the terms and exposing their complexity, the TLDR Act will rebalance that market and give back power to consumers. Furthermore, by making those points machine-readable, the TLDR Act will support the entire ecosystem of civil society actors and regulators that track the compliance and ethics of service providers, improving the situation in the long term."

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Christian Dawson, *Executive Director, Internet Infrastructure Coalition, Inc.*

"We're pleased to work with Rep. Trahan and her staff on efforts to develop an appropriate system that provides consumers with additional information about an online platform's existing terms of service. The legislation is an important step in the right direction. We commend the Congresswoman for her willingness to accept constructive feedback in developing the legislation

and look forward to continuing to work with her in the coming months ahead to make a good idea even better."