

WHY A MORATORIUM?

HOW WOULD A MORATORIUM ON FACE SURVEILLANCE WORK?

This moratorium would make it unlawful for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any state official to “acquire, possess, access or use” face surveillance technology without legal authorization. Crucially, a moratorium is a temporary prohibition — it is not a permanent ban.

WHY DO WE NEED A MORATORIUM?

Face surveillance poses unprecedented threats to our civil rights and civil liberties. We need to press pause so we can establish basic safeguards and checks and balances. A moratorium gives policymakers and other stakeholders the space to have a robust debate and identify strong regulations to keep people safe and free. In the meantime, a moratorium would pause the government’s ongoing, unregulated use of this dangerous, experimental technology. Right now, the risks of face surveillance far outweigh its potential benefits; we can’t let the government use it while we’re still considering the right approach.

WHAT COMES AFTER A MORATORIUM?

Once a moratorium is established, we can take on the urgent task of examining how — if at all — this technology ought to be integrated into our government and our society. This technology affects everyone in the Commonwealth, and has the potential to radically reshape our future. Everyone should have a chance to weigh in. Legislators, law enforcement, private companies, impacted communities, and concerned residents all have a part to play in this process.

WHAT KIND OF REGULATIONS SHOULD WE ADOPT?

The bill requires that any future statutes authorizing government use of face surveillance must establish the following:

- Who will have access to this technology;
- How and when the government can use it;
- How authorities will assess and ensure accuracy;
- How the government will manage face surveillance data;
- How often reporting will happen, and what information any reports will include;
- What penalties for misuse will be established and how they will be enforced;
- How the government will protect our civil rights and civil liberties.

WHO SUPPORTS A MORATORIUM?

According to a recent ACLU poll, **79% of Massachusetts voters support a statewide moratorium on government use of face surveillance technology.**

In addition, a host of organizations have endorsed the bill, including: the NAACP New England Conference, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Library Association, the YWCA of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, the National Association of Social Workers — Massachusetts Chapter, Jane Doe Inc., Greater Boston Legal Services, Data for Black Lives, and Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood.