



April 13, 2026

Chair Christopher Cabaldon
Vice Chair Brian Jones
Committee on Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection
California State Senate
1020 N Street, Room 568
Sacramento, CA 95814
SPDTCP.Committee@sen.ca.gov

Re: SB 1130 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Cabaldon and Vice Chair Brian Jones,

Consumer Reports¹ writes to support SB 1130, which would update California law to prohibit a person or entity, absent consent, from using a wearable recording device to capture sounds or videos of any other person within a place of business where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy. The bill would also make it illegal for people to disable the light or sounds on wearable devices that indicate that the device is capturing sound or video, or to manufacture or sell any technology that enables people to disable any such indicators.

Today, Californians' fundamental right to privacy is under threat by the growing proliferation of wearable recording technologies. These devices, while undoubtedly technically impressive, can facilitate the frictionless and surreptitious recording of individuals, eroding well-established norms of personal agency and informed consent. Perhaps the best-known product in the wearable category is Meta's AI-enabled smart glasses, produced in partnership with eyewear maker EssilorLuxottica and licensed to brands such as RayBan and Oakley. Meta reportedly sold several million smart-glass units in 2025 and are reportedly seeking to

¹ Consumer Reports is an independent, nonprofit membership organization that works side by side with consumers to create a fairer, safer, and healthier world. For over 80 years, CR has provided evidence-based product testing and ratings, rigorous research, hard-hitting investigative journalism, public education, and steadfast policy action on behalf of consumers' interests, including their interest in securing effective privacy protections. Unconstrained by advertising, CR has exposed landmark public health and safety issues and strives to be a catalyst for pro-consumer changes in the marketplace. From championing responsible auto safety standards, to winning food and water protections, to enhancing healthcare quality, to fighting back against predatory lenders in the financial markets, Consumer Reports has always been on the front lines, raising the voices of consumers.

produce 20-30 million units by the end of 2026.²

Very quickly, these devices have generated a series of frightening incidents. Just last month, it was revealed that Meta was sending raw video collected from glasses to its Kenya-based contractors for the purpose of training and labeling for its AI systems.³ This practice resulted in video of consumers' bathroom visits, sexual activities, and other intimate moments being watched by human reviewers. A recent BBC investigation surfaced numerous examples of women being secretly recorded by men in public places with the resulting videos going viral and resulting in embarrassment, unwanted attention, and online harassment.⁴ And in another recent story, a woman realized mid-appointment that her Brazilian wax technician was wearing Meta glasses — and though the technician assured her the glasses were not recording, the woman had no way of verifying that this was the case.⁵

This last example is exactly what SB 1130 seeks to address. Under the bill, an individual would need to obtain explicit consent before recording a person in “any area within a place of business where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy,”⁶ which include locations like restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, and medical examination rooms.⁷ This is critical, since it is unclear whether wearable recordings would exist outside the scope of the state's preexisting peeping-tom statute, since the wearable itself is not generally hidden.⁸

The bill would also outlaw the practice of disabling indicators on wearable devices, or offering the means to do so. This is directly responsive to the fact that Meta's primary safety control, a small LED that illuminates when users take photos or videos, is easily disabled. For example, recent reports have identified individuals who offer to modify Meta glasses to disable the LED for as little as \$60.⁹

² Daniele Lepido and Antonio Vanuzzo, Meta Seeks to Double Ray-Ban Glasses Output After Surge in Demand, Bloomberg, (January 13, 2026) <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-01-13/meta-said-to-discuss-doubling-ray-ban-glasses-out-put-after-surge-in-demand>

³ Naipanoi Lepapa, Ahmed Abdigadir, Julia Lindblom, She Came Out of the Bathroom Naked, Employee Says, Svenska Dagbladet, (February 27, 2026), <https://www.svd.se/a/K8nrV4/metas-ai-smart-glasses-and-data-privacy-concerns-workers-say-we-see-everything>

⁴ Georgia Poncia, 'I was secretly filmed with smart glasses and then trolled online', BBC, (January 8, 2026), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx23ke7rm7go>

⁵ Noor Al-Sibai, Woman Goes to Get Brazilian Wax, Alarmed to Notice Waxer Is Wearing Meta's Video Recording Glasses, Futurism, (August 31, 2025), <https://futurism.com/wax-center-meta-glasses>

⁶ SB 1130, Section 2(b), https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20250260SB1130

⁷ *Hill v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*, 7 Cal. 4th 1 (1994), <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/4th/7/1.html>

⁸ California Penal Code Section 647(j), https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=647&lawCode=PEN

⁹ Joesph Cox and Jason Koebler, A \$60 Mod to Meta's Ray-Bans Disables Its Privacy-Protecting Recording Light, 404Media, (October 23, 2025), <https://www.404media.co/how-to-disable-meta-rayban-led-light/>

At the same time, we'd urge the committee to consider a couple of amendments to the legislation. For example, we recommend a clarification to the definition of wearable so that it only includes those devices *designed* to be worn on the human body, rather than devices that *can* be worn on the human body (which could include just about anything). In addition, we'd recommend prohibiting the *sale* of any wearable device that does not come equipped with sufficiently prominent indicators that allow a reasonable person in the vicinity to be alerted to recording activity. Today, it is usually obvious when a person is recording with their camera or mobile device, since they generally have to hold it up and point it in the correct direction. This fact at least creates the possibility of dissent amongst those that would rather not be recorded. Since wearable devices often do not produce this same visual cue, they should be required to replicate one (either via a conspicuous visual or sonic indicator) in order to preserve this important societal norm. While Meta's glasses currently come with a visual indicator (shortcomings notwithstanding), this safeguard is by no means assured going forward and should be enshrined into law.

Unfortunately, we cannot simply trust technology companies to err on the side of restraint. Despite the recent bad news, Meta reportedly plans to reintroduce a controversial facial recognition feature to its smart glasses, citing a "dynamic political environment where many civil society groups that we would expect to attack us would have their resources focused on other concerns."¹⁰ This feature would allow any glass-wearer to instantaneously identify any other passerby, possibly associating each identified person with a tranche of other personal information, including details sourced from social media or elsewhere. Put bluntly, wearable devices equipped with such facial recognition tools would effectively obliterate any remaining semblance of privacy that Californians are able to enjoy in public places. We strongly urge the committee to consider additional legislation to address this grave threat.

Ultimately, this bill should be viewed as the important first step toward regulating a policy area in desperate need of closer attention. It would reinvigorate Californians' right to privacy in highly intimate places for the wearable era and would ideally pave the way for a fuller discussion of the significant remaining issues.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an "aye" vote on SB 1130.

Sincerely,

Matt Schwartz
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Consumer Reports

¹⁰ Kashmir Hill, Kalley Huang and Mike Isaac, Meta Plans to Add Facial Recognition Technology to Its Smart Glasses, New York Times, (February 13, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/13/technology/meta-facial-recognition-smart-glasses.html>