

Passed unanimously on Tuesday, February 20, 2024

WHEREAS the national Democratic Party platform affirms that Democrats will work to “ensure that new products and new discoveries are bound by law, ethics, and civil liberties protections that enable democratic societies to thrive,” and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Democratic Party platform underscores the “the role our government plays in protecting individual civil rights and civil liberties,” and

WHEREAS the Democratic Party has been a stalwart defender of reproductive autonomy and Massachusetts Democrats have strengthened protections for reproductive rights in the Commonwealth while Republicans in other states have sought to undermine or eliminate them,

WHEREAS technology often evolves faster than the laws and regulations that govern it, and we must be vigilant about this discrepancy,

WHEREAS no state or federal laws currently prohibit data brokers from purchasing cell phone location data, repackaging it, and selling it for profit,

WHEREAS data brokers have been able to purchase and sell location information of people visiting sensitive locations including abortion clinics,

WHEREAS the ability to purchase cell phone location data can empower domestic abusers seeking to track the whereabouts of their victims or employers seeking to track or discriminate against employees, among other socially harmful ends,

WHEREAS H.3575 and S.148: An Act protecting reproductive health access, LGBTQ lives, religious liberty, and freedom of movement by banning the sale of cell phone location information (known as the “Location Shield Act”) would prohibit companies from selling, leasing, trading, or renting location data and require companies to obtain consent before collecting or processing location data,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee endorses the Location Shield Act and calls on the elected officials representing the ward to join us in championing the passage of the bill.