

Testimony for BIPA Reform Press Conference
By Matt Hart, Executive Director, Illinois Trucking Association

Good morning. My name is Matt Hart and I am the Executive Director of the Illinois Trucking Association.

Everyone deserves to get home safely.

That's why the trucking industry spends \$9.5 billion dollars per year on safety. Family owned trucking companies are making decisions every day in Illinois to invest in technology that will make their trucks safer, their drivers better, and the motoring public safer.

BIPA is hurting our industry and it is making our roads less safe. We must fix BIPA and we must fix it now.

In our industry, one of the best tools that trucking companies have for training professional drivers is cameras that are located inside the cab of a truck. These cameras provide valuable video data that is used to teach drivers to be alert, to avoid distraction, and to improve their skills.

Your favorite sports team uses "game films" to make themselves better. Well, trucking companies use these "game films" to make our trucks safer, our drivers better, and ultimately the motoring public safer.

What trucking companies did not know, is that the technology in these camera systems could be used today in a twisted game of "gotcha" that is costing Illinois trucking companies millions of dollars even though no driver has actually reported any harm. Trucking companies and camera companies did not know that BIPA even existed...because after all, a law like this doesn't exist in any other state.

BIPA has caused many trucking companies to remove these cameras either because they are involved in a BIPA lawsuit or for fear of a BIPA lawsuit. Likewise, trucking companies that were considering these cameras to improve their safety have now decided against installing these cameras in Illinois because they fear being sued in this state.

BIPA was supposed to help, but in our industry this one-of-a-kind law has become a hinderance to safety. Trucking companies in Indiana don't have to choose between Safety and a Lawsuit. Trucking companies in Wisconsin don't have to chose between Safety and a Lawsuit. So why are we forcing our trucking companies in Illinois to make this choice when we should be encouraging them to invest in safety?

The Illinois Trucking Association is calling on the legislature and the governor to fix BIPA and make the changes needed to ensure trucking companies can confidently invest in safety on our highways.