



Iowa Civil Liberties Union

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

505 5th Ave. Suite 901
Des Moines, IA 50309

February 25, 2004

Governor Thomas Vilsack
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0001

Dear Governor Vilsack:

Enclosed you will find two Associated Press stories and some ACLU press releases regarding the development of a data mining program known as MATRIX. In these articles, it is reported that the State of Iowa has expressed interest in participating in this highly controversial program. As we understand it, joining MATRIX allows law enforcement agencies within a participating state to collect and gather private data on all state residents.

Considering the massive privacy invasions this program envisions, it is no surprise that it is a matter that concerns people from all over the political spectrum. Of course, most Iowans, including most civil libertarians, at this time don't even know it exists, and that is the reason I write you today.

On behalf of the over three thousand members of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, I seek your assurance that the State of Iowa will NOT participate in the MATRIX program without first holding public hearings about the matter.

I make this rather unusual request because several other state governments have joined the program secretly. It is our hope that you will promise not to let that happen in Iowa.

Sincerely,

R. Ben Stone
Executive Director
Iowa Civil Liberties Union
505 5th Avenue – Suite 901
Des Moines, IA 50309
515/243-3988 x 11
bstone@iowaclu.org

enclosures

cc: Kevin Techau, Commissioner of Public Safety