



# Moral Question: Is it right for Oklahoma to collect biometric information from its Citizens?

## On the issue of "Unalienable Rights":

- Our "unalienable rights" are given by God, not by man.
- Our society is made up of sovereign individuals; the next sovereign unit of society is the family, followed by the local community, the state, and finally the larger country.
- Individual rights start with the individual and include being "secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects..." (4th Amendment)
- The **preservation of citizen's rights** must be the highest moral calling of the elected official.
- Other than a person's thoughts, nothing is more personal than a person's biometric information, and like their thoughts, **belongs to the individual**.
- In a free society, the individual alone decides what is to be done with his unique biometric information.
- Unless someone committed a felonious crime, the forfeiture of biometric data solely belongs to the individual owner of the biometric data.
- "Your own body is the most important property you will ever own. The idea that someone else can control that is absurd, but there are many who seek to do so." — Tom DeWeese, "The Principles of Freedom v. Public/Private Partnerships," NewsWithViews.com, August 16, 2007

## On the issue of Life:

Biometrics, including fingerprinting, is the use of technology in the collection of **physiological** and **behavioral** characteristics of citizens, converting it to digital form, and adding it to a database. **Fingerprints are only one part of a growing list of physiological information being collected.**

### Other physiological types include:

- Facial recognition, facial thermogram recognition, palm prints, fingertip characteristics, hand geometry, measuring hand characteristics, including vein patterns, live grip recognition; retinal scans; iris details; skin features; ear shape; DNA and RNA; body odor; and more.

### Behavioral biometrics includes:

- Voice data, speech mode, handwritten signature patterns, include shape, speed, pressure, pen angle or sequence; keystroke dynamics; gait (walking motion); and more.

## On the issue of Security:

- The argument that the U.S. and Oklahoma specifically, is not "secure" and needs more "security" is an assumption no one is questioning. The idea that the massive collection of biometric data on US citizens creates "security" is a sweeping, unproven, generalization.
- There is no such thing as a secure database or computer system. Instances of lost or stolen data are too numerous to list here. See attached for partial list.
- Security breaches are common and many states require notification of a breach. Businesses indicated it can cost up to \$1.4 million per breach to notify victims. From January 2005 to March 2008, there were **218,745,336 "records containing sensitive personal information involved in security breaches in the U.S."** (Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, 3/5/08)
- Outsourcing of data collection allows for foreign access to biometric data on US/Oklahoma citizens. Example:  
June 1, 2005: BlueBear Network International Inc. (BBNI) announces the extension of their "exclusive licensing of facial recognition and secure distributed search technology from Ottawa-based VisionSphere Technologies, to **offer State motor vehicle agencies the ability to link driver's license databases between all U.S. states, Canada and Mexico — as proposed by the sweeping REAL ID Act** approved by Congress this month." Andrew Brewin, President and CEO of BBNI said, "The passing of

the Real ID Act by Congress earlier this month will enable BlueBear to position itself to be a key technology player in **linking driver's license databases throughout North America**. . . Given that **BlueBear is already deploying information sharing systems in Law Enforcement**, adding Driver's Licenses is a logical extension."

## On the issue of Liberty:

### Liberty: Synonymous with Freedom.

The condition of being free from restriction or control. The right and power to act, believe, or express oneself in a manner of one's own choosing. The condition of being physically and legally free from confinement, servitude, or forced labor. Freedom from unjust or undue governmental control.

- The collection of personal information on citizens with the goal of creating a national/international ID smacks of Hitler's Germany where people needed papers to travel, or to move about their own country. In that case "state-issued papers" were used to control and restrict the people, not to extend freedoms. We are heading in the same direction with the accumulation of personal data on Oklahomans.
- Fingerprinting everyone treats, as the same, both the guilty and the innocent. Eventual guilt is presumed, not innocence.

## On the issue of Privacy, the 21st Century Technology Nightmare:

- Biometric data, including fingerprint images, is added to an increasingly large database of national/international **biometric profiling** information, creating a biometric profile of U.S. citizens, visible not only to the FBI, but to foreign government agencies, as well as corporations.
- Contrary to the Republican platform of limited government – biometric data collection necessitates the growth of government by creation of new bureaucracies.
- Public/Private Partnerships, like AAMVA, give the private sector access to a citizen's personal biometric data; the private sector may at any time decide to sell or share the biometric data collected, without seeking permission.
- The individual citizen cannot access the private sector's database of personal data on themselves.
- Due to the tendency of government to expand itself, it is naive to think that data collected by a government agency, i.e. DPS, will not eventually **end up in the hands of someone other than the original agency requesting the data.**

## On the issue of forced Globalization:

- **"What we in America call terrorists are really groups of people that reject the international system..."**  
— Henry Kissinger at a May 31, 2007 Conference in Istanbul
- Are Oklahomans who wish to protect their privacy and retain control of their own biometric data to be considered terrorists in their own country? What have we become a part of – a defender of the peoples' rights or a tyranny?

## And finally on Compulsory Identification/Biometrics

### "Serbia rejects biometric ID cards" (31 January, 2007)

A grass-roots campaign in Serbia successfully pressed the Serbian government to back off on a plan to make biometric data compulsory in the country's new ID cards. The decision followed a pitched battle prior to the 21 January 2007 election as opponents criticized the accompanying plan for a centralized database of citizen information and the taking of fingerprints.

**If Serbians understand the dangers, why can't Oklahomans?**