



U.S. Senator Ron Wyden
<http://wyden.senate.gov>



Dear Dr. Weyer:

Thank you for contacting me about the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) request for Apple to allow for a backdoor into the iPhone. I appreciate hearing from you on this extremely important issue.

As you have seen, the FBI wants to force Apple to build new software and help it hack into an encrypted iPhone. I believe that there are two major problems with the FBI's approach. First, creating this hacking tool doesn't just weaken the security of one iPhone, it threatens millions of phones. The FBI is trying to use a 230-year old law, the All Writs Act, to force Apple to write a hacking tool that weakens the security of its own products. This is a terrible precedent. If the FBI can force Apple to do this, it could compel all sorts of other U.S. companies to change their products to serve the government rather than their customers.

Second, if the FBI can force Apple to build a key, you can be sure authoritarian regimes like China and Russia will turn around and force Apple to hand it over to them. They will use that key to oppress their own people and steal U.S. trade secrets.

If such a tool is created, and obtained by criminals and foreign governments, it would threaten the security of millions of Americans' phones — and undermine the safety of their bank accounts, medical information and most private personal details. This issue is not about privacy versus security, it is about permanently weakening digital security for everyone.

I appreciate you writing me on this pressing issue. If I can be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Wyden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

To write to me, go to <http://wyden.senate.gov/> and choose the "Contact" link. Please do not reply to this e-mail. Mail sent to this address cannot be answered.