BACKGROUND:

Background: On May 10, 2022, Governor Ned Lamont signed into law *Senate Bill 6: An Act Concerning Personal Data Privacy and Online Monitoring*. The Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA), effective July 3, 2023, provides Connecticut residents with certain rights over their personal data and establishes privacy protection standards for data controllers that process personal data. CTDPA gives Connecticut residents the right to: 1) request a copy of the personal information businesses have collected on them; 2) correct inaccuracies in personal information; 3) delete personal information; and 4) opt out of businesses selling your personal information. The state's Online Privacy Act (OPA), effective July 1, 2024, amends the CTDPA to expand online privacy protections for Connecticut residents. The OPA includes protections for personal data, including consumer health data, and puts in place restrictions on the disclosure of health information.

The General Law Committee was the committee of cognizance for CTDPA and OPA, and the committee is currently researching policies to further protect the data of Connecticut residents, which may include, but would not be limited to, the following key areas: 1) consumer privacy, including data breach notification and limiting the collection and retention of personal data to what is necessary for the specified purpose; 2) online privacy protection; 3) health information privacy; 4) children's privacy; 5) data security measures for the protection of personal information; 6) require businesses to have clear and accessible privacy policies; and 6) mechanisms for enforcement.

Overall Objective of the Fellowship

A one-year fellowship focused on researching data privacy protections is available, with an estimated start March 2025. The fellow will be placed under the guidance of the Senate Democratic Caucus and tasked to work directly with the Senator who has been a lead policymaker for Artificial Intelligence and Data Privacy. The Fellow will be a highly qualified scientist with a PhD or similar terminal degree in a field relevant to the topic. The Fellow will be selected based on their interest and knowledge and will have some of the following skills:

- **Analytical Skills**: Ability to critically analyze complex data sets, identify patterns, trends, and correlations and draw meaningful conclusions
- **Artificial Intelligence**: Familiarity with AI technologies
- **Communication Skills**: Strong written and verbal communication skills
- **Computer Science and Engineering**: Proficiency in computer science fundamentals, software development, and systems architecture to assist in understanding technical aspects of artificial intelligence systems and implementing privacy-enhancing technologies
- **Data Privacy and Security**: Understanding the principles, regulations, and best practices surrounding data privacy and security.
- **Ethics and Policy Analysis:** Understanding ethical considerations in artificial intelligence development and deployment
- **Flexibility and Adaptability**: Capacity to adapt research approaches and strategies based on evolving needs
- **Industry Knowledge**: Familiarity with industry-specific challenges and the application of AI and data privacy leading to practical insights into policy development
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**: Willingness and ability to collaborate with experts from various disciplines to assist in the development of policies the balance needed to protect Connecticut residents and the need for business innovations
- **Problem-Solving Skills**: Capacity to identify challenges associated with data privacy and online protection, formulate research questions, and contribute to discussions on innovative solutions
- **Research Skills**: ability to conduct literature reviews, knowledge of research methodologies, collecting and analyzing data and interpreting findings; competency in statistical analysis; qualitative research skills, including the ability to conduct interviews, focus groups and other methods to gather and report on data privacy and online protections

This Fellowship is an opportunity to transform a researcher's professional path. Some researchers who have completed Fellowships opt to remain in public service, while others return to academia, nonprofits, or industry

with a deeper understanding of how science informs policymaking, enhancing their career as researchers, professors, consultants, and leaders from professional organizations, business, and industry.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awarded CASE a multi-year grant to expand its science and technology policy fellowship program to the legislative branch. The funding will support a full-time fellowship, including compensation, professional development support, and relocation expenses. In 2017, CASE received a favorable opinion from the State of Connecticut, Office of State Ethics (Advisory Opinion No. 2018-1) that giving a gift/donation to the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) would not trigger lobbyist registration requirements and would constitute a permissible gift to the state.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

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