

Theodore Cogan

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March 24, 2016

The Honorable John R. Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

My name is Theodore Cogan, and I reside in [REDACTED]. I am a senior at the University of Notre Dame studying computer science. I wrote this letter with the help of my classmates Isabelle Hillberg and John Larson.

I am writing you to ask that you support Apple in their case against the FBI regarding encryption.

The case against Apple has been misunderstood by many politicians. It is perceived that this case is unique from other attempts to unlock iPhones and cannot be replicated in the future. As someone with a technical background, I know that this is not the case.

Creating a backdoor into the iPhone used in the San Bernardino terrorist attack creates a dangerous precedent. The technology that would be required to be created by Apple can have devastating consequences if it gets into the wrong hands. The creation of this software threatens the safety and privacy of all iPhone owners, including myself.

Software is not something that can be destroyed. Once a solution for the problem exists, it can easily be replicated. The concepts and implementation in this solution will persist forever. Software is not physical; it remains in theory, which can never go away. The threat that the creation of this software presents cannot be eliminated.

There is a misperception that the techniques used in this case to unlock the iPhone can be used exclusively for this phone. That is simply incorrect. Apple will have to create a new operating system with a special disablement of the brute force password attack protection. This compromised operating system can be implemented on any iPhone. Apple's solution is not a material being. It cannot be put in a safe and protected by the National Guard. Their solution cannot be withheld at the physical level. Anyone who gains knowledge of the solution can replicate it at any time. I am

concerned that this design will get into the wrong hands, putting my personal information at risk of being used maliciously.

I believe that this case should be argued at the legislative level, not judicial. Encryption, and technology in general, remains in its infancy. Many issues have arisen from the advancement of technology that need to be debated amongst the people. We, as a country, need to decide what steps will be necessary going forward to find a balance between our safety and our privacy. This case is an example of the ambiguity that remains in the law and the differences in opinions that the country has on the issue. It emphasizes the need for conversation, not action.

I want you to be the leader in this discussion to find the best solution for all Americans that maintains our safety and liberty domestically.

I, like you, support enforcement's efforts to gather as much relevant information as possible to ensure my safety. I understand that they need all of the resources available to do their jobs. However, in this circumstance, the creation of a backdoor into this iPhone threatens the well-being of Americans in the future. I am not willing to give up that sense of security.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to support our stance with Apple.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

Theodore Cogan