



Dear Constituent:

To provide transparency to our supporters, we want to inform you of a data security incident involving one of our service providers. Blackbaud, Inc. is a leading, global supplier of database management, fundraising, and financial management software to hundreds of non-profit organizations including First Liberty Institute. We use their services to manage our database records for our supporters. In mid-July 2020, Blackbaud informed us that they stopped a ransomware attack in May 2020 by a cybercriminal. This incident affected many non-profit organizations across the country, including First Liberty Institute. Some of our backup files were part of the incident, which is described more fully below. We consider cybersecurity to be a serious matter and have insisted upon and received assurances from **Blackbaud that there was no unauthorized access to any bank account information, credit card numbers, or social security numbers as this data is encrypted.** We take cybersecurity seriously, and for that reason we are providing this information in the interest of transparency and care.

Blackbaud said it worked with independent forensics experts and law enforcement to stop the attack. However, before Blackbaud locked the cybercriminal out of its system, the cybercriminal removed a copy of some data, including some of our backup files containing some records of our supporters. The files included only information such as name, spouse's name, gender, marital status, postal and email addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth (for a very small number of records), and donation history. Blackbaud paid the ransom request with confirmation that the data the cybercriminal removed was destroyed. Blackbaud stated that it has no reason to believe that any data went beyond the cybercriminal, was or will be misused, or will be disseminated or otherwise made publicly available. You can read Blackbaud's statement about the incident here: <https://www.blackbaud.com/securityincident>.

Blackbaud does not believe this incident poses any risks to our constituents. That is our belief as well. However, we wanted to alert you so that you can remain vigilant, as you would for any suspicious email or other unwanted solicitation, and promptly report any such unusual activity to the proper authorities. We apologize for any inconvenience this incident may have caused and we remain grateful for your generous support and trust.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact (972) 941-4444 and ask for Mr. Steve Purdum, Head of Development, or at email spurdum@firstliberty.org. Again thank, you for your kind support and understanding.

Sincerely,

David K. Holmes
Chief Operating Officer