

(January 24, 2006) METRO BRIEFS: Bills target sale of phone records

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U.S. Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.) on Monday joined a chorus of legislators seeking to criminalize the unauthorized sale of phone records. Lipinski said he would push a bill called the Secure Telephone Operation Act. U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) already have proposed similar bills. Also, in a lawsuit filed Monday, T-Mobile USA alleged one Internet broker, 1st Source Information Specialists, obtains phone records from T-Mobile in a variety of ways, including impersonating customers, falsely posing as T-Mobile employees and attempting to change customer account passwords. 1st Source operates locatecell.com, which the Chicago Sun-Times highlighted in a Jan. 5 story. The newspaper bought a call list for a reporter's phone from locatecell.com -- no questions asked -- for \$110 to demonstrate how the service works. In the story, the Chicago Police and FBI expressed concern that services similar to locate cell.com could be used by criminals to gain access to officers' cell phone calling lists.