



To The Washington Post Editorial Board:

The International Biometrics + Identity Association (IBIA), a non-profit trade association, was extremely pleased to see your timely and important editorial, '[Uber and Lyft's arguments against fingerprinting make little sense](#),' in the January 2, edition of The Post's View. This is a significant public safety issue and your editorial will help ensure the issue is properly addressed.

IBIA has advocated the use of fingerprint-based background checks on Uber and Lyft drivers. The arguments against biometrics-based background checks are purposefully misleading and, as is implied in your article, seem primarily motivated by the companies' collective financial interest in defining drivers as independent contractors rather than employees.

The Editorial Board's conclusion that a combination of fingerprinting and biographic background checks is in the public's best interests is shared by IBIA. In 2016, IBIA published a white paper outlining such a process while also addressing Uber and Lyft's arguments against fingerprinting, which can be found at <https://www.ibia.org/resources/white-papers>. Please feel free to use it as a resource.

Technology advances that have enabled a new generation of ride share services to emerge and disrupt established business models should be balanced against society's legitimate need to be safe from those who would abuse their position of public trust. By purposely avoiding the use of widely-accepted biometric background screening procedures for their driver applicants, these ridesharing companies put the public at risk.

IBIA represents the identification technology industry, which includes organizations that develop or implement technologies used for positive person identification, including biometrics and smart cards. Our industry plays a vital role by providing automated identification of people with a high degree of assurance.

Sincerely,

The International Biometrics + Identification Association

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