



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

TechNet Northwest | Telephone 206.326.0712
1102 A Street POB 445, Tacoma WA 98401
www.technet.org | @TechNet_NW

February 8, 2025

The Honorable Lawrence R. Klemin
House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505

RE: HB 1593 relating to a commercial entity's liability for publishing or distributing sexual material harmful to a minor.

Dear Chair Klemin:

I am Rose Feliciano, Executive Director of Washington + Northwest for TechNet. TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

TechNet and its member companies are committed to providing a safe, age-appropriate experience for young people online. TechNet agrees that protecting children is a top priority. This is why TechNet strongly support HB 1593.

I understand amendments may be proposed at the committee to require age-verification for devices or app-stores. Across the country, the courts have found several laws passed which attempt to restrict the access of minors to online content unconstitutional. TechNet believes HB 1593 strikes the right balance of verifying age for adult-content websites. Requiring online users to verify their age to enter an adult content website should be considered no different than verifying age for the purchase of alcohol or cigarettes.

We believe such amendments would inherently be ineffective in that many of these same websites can be accessed by desktop web browsers or through the sideloading of apps. Targeting devices or app-stores is only one part of the

ecosystem and the goal of helping kids keep safe online will not be achieved through this legislation.

I appreciate your consideration and strongly encourage you to pass SB 1593 as introduced.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rose Feliciano', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rose Feliciano
Executive Director
Washington + Northwest