



Empowering families to thrive by providing community-driven resources that foster safe and nurturing environments for children.

Senate Bill 2380

Senate Industry and Business Committee

Testimony Presented by Christy Dodd, MPH

Email: cdodd@familiesflourishnd.org

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My name is Christy Dodd, and I am the Executive Director of Families Flourish ND, formerly known as Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota. I am testifying today on behalf of our organization's support of SB 2380.

This legislation would require manufacturers to make reasonable efforts to provide age verification for websites, apps, and online services, using a digital signal to notify them if a primary user is under or over the age of 18. Children are getting cell phones and devices at younger ages, and it is our duty to help protect their innocence. This age verification would be one step closer to creating a safer virtual world for our children.

According to a Common Sense Media survey of 1,300 teens aged 12-17, published in Psychology Today, more than half accidentally encountered sexually explicit content by clicking on a link, a video, or typing an innocent word. 71% of those who found it accidentally had watched it and 44% who sought it out intentionally watched it regularly.

While it is still our job as parents to monitor what our children are doing online to protect their innocence, sometimes things happen out of our sight. This bill would be another tool for parents to help protect our children and preserve their youth.



Empowering families to thrive by providing community-driven resources that foster safe and nurturing environments for children. For these reasons, Families Flourish ND would encourage the committee to give SB 2380 a Do-Pass recommendation. I appreciate your time and am happy to stand for any questions you may have. Thank you.