



February 10, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Barta  
815 South 21st Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4135

**Re: Oppose SB 2380**

Dear Chair X and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Chamber of Progress – a tech industry association supporting public policies to build a more inclusive society in which all people benefit from technological advancements – I urge you to **oppose SB 2380**, which would compromise online privacy. One of the Chamber of Progress’s top priorities is protecting online privacy. We support rules to prevent particularly sensitive data from being used in harmful ways, and we are staunch supporters of efforts to create comprehensive privacy protections. We also strongly support making the internet safe for young people.

**SB 2380 would undermine the privacy and online experiences for all users**

As written, SB 2380 would effectively require covered manufacturers to verify the identity and age of ALL users - a tremendous encroachment of individual privacy. In fact, estimating the age of a user will require *more* data, acting contrary to data minimization efforts. Moreover, many adult users reasonably would prefer not to share their identifying information with online services - creating an unpleasant dilemma for adult users: turn over sensitive personal data to access protected speech online, or forego enjoyment of that device entirely.

SB 2380 may lead to online services opting out of gathering identifying information and opting instead to treat all users as minors. This would cause the curation of online content accordingly: in other words, covered platforms may turn entirely to children's programming and eliminate all content for adults, turning YouTube into YouTube kids for everyone.

**App providers are better suited than app store developers to implement customized safety measures**

SB 2380 places the burden on online safety on app store providers. However, app developers are better positioned to implement tailored safety measures as they have a

deeper understanding of their apps' features, audiences, and risks. The Legislature should not relieve developers' of their responsibility to do so.

Moreover, mistakenly assumes that mere access to an online service or application threatens young people's safety. When in fact, any online harms come from the experiences they have on online platforms. Thus, online platforms like Meta and Snap have worked diligently to create safety tools and parental controls.

Age verification at the app store or device level creates a false sense of security, when the real issue is what developers are doing to make their products safe for users of all ages.

By enforcing age verification, SB 2380 could effectively cut young people off from the benefits of the internet - including educational enrichment, community, etc - , without meaningfully making them or the internet safer. For these reasons, we urge you to **oppose SB 2380** to protect online privacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. C. M.", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Kouri Marshall  
Director of State & Local Public Policy, Central/Southern Region  
[www.progresschamber.org](http://www.progresschamber.org)