Committee members: I write asking you to oppose HB1561.

There are no reasonable age verification methods for accessing the Internet. Age verification methods on the Internet attack the privacy and security of minors and adults.

HB1561 is bad for business. It demonstrates naive assumptions about how the Internet works. It is nanny-state overreach into business operations. It betrays a parochial mindset of how to do business. It is anti-free speech.

This type of legislation was found to be unconstitutional in 2004s Ashcroft vs ACLU. Nothing has fundamentally changed since that ruling.

Forward thinking companies will think twice about doing business in ND whether or not they produce adult content if HB1561 passes.

Additionally, HB1561 has the exact same energy as SB2307.

Both bills wants to put 1st-Amendment protected speech behind a locked door, creating unreasonable barriers to legal access.

Again: There are no reasonable age verification methods for accessing the Internet. Age verification methods on the Internet attack the privacy and security of minors and adults.

What this bill will do is force law-abiding businesses end service to North Dakota entirely. It will tell legitimate businesses to stay out, that North Dakota is not a good place to hang your shingle. Publishers and businesses that dont care about this law or who are not in jurisdiction wont change. Minors will still be able to access content from all over the Internet. And adults will have had unreasonable burdens placed on their lawful access to law abiding businesses content.

Once again: HB1561 is a bad for business, naive, nanny-state, parochial, anti-free speech bill.

Parents and guardians should educate their kids and take responsibility for how their kids use the Internet. Apple, Android, and Microsoft devices and services already provide sophisticated content and parental controls on their devices and software. This law is not necessary and will not achieve its goals.

Thank you for your time.

John Rodenbiker
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