



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1993		DATE: 2/6/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BARTLETT CLELAND		PHONE NUMBER: 703-626-8478	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NETCHOICE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2744 STREAM VISTA COURT			
CITY: OAKTON		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22124
EMAIL: bcleland@netchoice.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 7:48 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:14 AM

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Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors.
Restricting access to adult content will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JON SCHWEPPE		PHONE NUMBER: 309-749-7009	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN PRINCIPLES PROJECT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2800 SHIRLINGTON RD, SUITE 1201			
CITY: ARLINGTON		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22206
EMAIL: jon@americanprinciplesproject.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 10:04 AM	
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Testimony in Support of HB 1993 February 6th, 2024 Good afternoon. My name is Jon Schweppe. I'm the policy director at American Principles Project, a pro-family conservative group based out of Virginia. I'm proud to be here today in support of HB 1993, a bill that will protect kids online and provide important peace of mind to parents who are struggling to safeguard their kids' innocence, especially in a culture so hellbent on sexualizing them at earlier and earlier ages. As it stands currently in Missouri, online porn websites are free to distribute the most hardcore porn imaginable to children. There are no consequences for doing so. This has led to a proliferation of porn use among young people. According to one study, the average age of first porn use is now just 12 years old. And that's just an average – meaning that for many kids, it's even younger than that. HB 1993 seeks to solve this problem using the least restrictive means possible. Because the technology has improved greatly in the last few years, age verification is as easy as ever, and there are a number of feasible ways to do it. This bill would require online porn websites to choose one of those ways and implement a functional age verification system to prevent minors under the age of 18 from accessing their pornographic content. The enforcement mechanism is civil liability. If an online porn website fails to adhere to this law, they would be held liable every time a child accessed their content – and parents would be able to sue them on their child's behalf. Almost everyone here should be able to agree that we don't want kids accessing online porn, just like we don't want kids smoking, drinking, or gambling. I'm from a state that has legalized sports betting, but kids can't place bets because FanDuel, DraftKings, and all the other sports betting apps have age verification software in place. This protects kids from picking up an addictive habit before their brains have fully developed and matured – and it's not an undue burden on adults. It's still extremely easy for an adult to place a bet. But frankly, protecting kids from porn is more important than protecting them from cigarettes, beer, and gambling. We've already seen the damage porn has done. Numerous studies have linked porn use to mental health issues, relationship issues, and sexually abusive behavior. And because I know the upstanding folks here today aren't familiar with modern online pornography, let me inform you: what you see on the Internet today is nothing like the topless Playboy and Hustler gals of old. The Internet made porn extremely fetishistic and weird. The #2 search for porn in the United States is "hentai" – that's cartoon porn. Hentai means "strange appearance" in Japanese and that's basically what you get. This is the most psychologically disturbing pornography on the Internet, and it's being targeted to kids, often even featuring characters from Disney films or Saturday morning cartoons. Because it's cartoon porn, there are no real-world limitations, meaning that kids are being exposed to the most violent, sadomasochistic pornography imaginable. Kids get addicted to this stuff extremely quickly, and it completely warps their view of sexuality and of potential romantic partners. And again, I can't stress this enough. This type of porn is being deliberately targeted at kids – with no recourse for parents. Getting them hooked young is the

point. Getting them addicted for life is the business model. This bill has the potential to be an opportunity for bipartisan agreement. Because this isn't partisan – this is about protecting kids from bad actors. We know the stakes here. Devices are everywhere – home, work, school, the library – and the Internet accompanies almost every single device. Parents simply can't shoulder this responsibility alone. And Missouri won't be alone either. Lawmakers have already passed age verification bills like HB1993 in eight states across the country, including Texas and Virginia, and we anticipate at least a dozen more to consider these types of bills in their legislative sessions this year. I appreciate all the important work this committee is doing today. On behalf of American Principles Project, I register support for this effort, and I urge the immediate passage of HB 1993. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NEIL GETZLOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: neil.getzlow@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 9:38 AM
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My name is Neil Getzlow and I am a resident of Liberty, MO. I am submitting my testimony today to support House Bill 1993. I'm grateful that the House is discussing age verification for pornographic websites. It is time that we get serious about protecting minors from accessing this material in the state of Missouri. My journey to providing this testimony started back when I was 10 years old back in 1980. That's where I first exposed to pornography in what my friends called the Playboy Forest – a wooded area behind my elementary school that we would ride our bikes to and look at ripped up pages of Playboy magazine. My Mom also had two giant stacks of Playboy and Penthouse magazines on either side of her bed. When she would go to work, my pre-teen brain would take over and spend hours looking at that material as a way to combat the loneliness and abandonment I was experiencing as a child. What I didn't realize was that the images I was looking at was transforming my brain. It was programming my views on love, sex, relationships. It taught me how to objectify women. From that first moment I was exposed, it took hold of my heart and wouldn't let go, impacting nearly every relationship I had in high school. But like any addict, soon I needed stronger and stronger medication. My drug of choice was porn. And when that didn't satisfy me, and as I got older and had access to more time and money, I started going to adult theaters and strip clubs. Finally, that led me to acting out by searching for women who were selling sex. That's how pornography works and how it leads to the demand of sex trafficked individuals. It is a drug. I am fortunate today that I can say I am four years pornography free. My mind is healing, my marriage is healing. Now, I want to warn others about the impact of porn on kids. Here are some facts about pornography and kids. Porn gives rise to sexual misconduct. Viewing porn is linked to adolescent and teen sexual harassment and assault, including having sex with someone who is incapacitated. Indeed, "any pornography use resulted in a significantly greater likelihood of physically coercive behavior. Porn can lead to abuse of younger children. Boys and adolescents exposed to porn are more likely to engage in inappropriate touching of younger children. This is especially true for boys who intentionally seek out porn. Porn leads to violent sex. Adolescents who view online porn are more likely to act aggressively during sex, including slapping and insulting their partners. Porn puts girls at risk of being victimized. Early internet exposure to porn for girls is a risk factor for later experiences of sexual abuse, sexual coercion, and sexual aggression. Porn teaches that hurting women is pleasurable. Video titles on the most popular porn websites promote criminal acts of sexual violence (e.g., coercion, rape) as normal and desirable. 9 97% of the violence in porn (punching, gagging, etc.) is aimed at women. 10 The victims, especially teen girls, are almost always shown enjoying the brutality. You can find the citations for these statements in the link. <https://culturereframed.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-11-27-Harms-of-Porn-Fact-Sheet-Final.pdf> The research and science is there. Pornography impacts brains the same way that drugs and alcohol do. It is time to regulate porn and treat it like a drug to ensure that minors 18 years and younger cannot access material that keeps the cycle of objectification, addiction, and demand going. Kids cannot walk

into a store to buy beer, cigarettes or marijuana. They should not have access to this drug either. A child cannot access pornography while at school or at a library. Why? If it is not appropriate for them to view in those settings, it is not appropriate for them to view unfiltered through their electronic devices. Stopping the cycle of demand starts with keeping kids off porn. I know there are first amendment concerns with a bill like this. I do not view this as a first amendment issue. This bill does not prevent anyone 18 years or older from accessing this content. This bill simply does what is long overdue. It treats pornography like the drug it is. I do thank you for the work you are doing, for representing the voices of your constituents, and for allowing me this opportunity to share with your committee.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: timothy@ephesians412.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 8:19 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VICKY HARTZLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 9:41 PM

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This bill has not been thought out. It will have too many unintended consequences many of which were brought up in the Q&A of the sponsor(s).



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KATY ERKER-LYNCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-862-4900	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PROMO		TITLE: ED	
ADDRESS: 2200 GRAVOIS AVE. 201			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63104
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:02 PM
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I urge you to oppose the following bills that, if enacted, pose severe threats to intellectual freedom, inclusivity, and the unrestricted access to essential LGBTQ+ materials. These bills, namely HB1426 (McGill), HB1855 (Banderman), HB1993 (Gallick), and HB2157 (Hurlbert), contain provisions that could lead to censorship, potential discrimination, and the hindrance of educational resources about sexual orientation and gender identity. HB1426, HB1855, HB2157, and HB1993, raise concerns about the potential suppression of LGBTQ+ materials in schools. While the bills purport to address the issue of explicit and harmful materials, their language is overly broad, especially in the definition of "harmful to minors," which could be subjectively construed to limit access to educational resources exploring LGBTQ+ topics. The risk of stifling inclusive and diverse educational resources is significant. In conclusion, these bills, if passed, could have severe consequences on the accessibility of LGBTQ+ materials, potentially leading to censorship and discrimination. I urge lawmakers to prioritize intellectual freedom, inclusivity, and the right to information for all individuals by reconsidering and revising these bills. It is essential to ensure that our educational institutions, libraries, and online platforms remain spaces that foster understanding, tolerance, and access to diverse perspectives.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI (FORMERLY PRO CHOICE MISSOURI)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 2:44 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: MichaelWesten.3up@protonmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 9:22 PM

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I OPPOSE HB 1993 as originally drafted. I have privacy concerns regarding potential age verification methods that might be used. I don't trust that all personally identifiable information collected to perform age verification would be deleted immediately upon verification.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:02 PM
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I urge you to oppose the following bills that, if enacted, pose severe threats to intellectual freedom, inclusivity, and the unrestricted access to essential LGBTQ+ materials. These bills, namely HB1426 (McGill), HB1855 (Banderman), HB1993 (Gallick), and HB2157 (Hurlbert), contain provisions that could lead to censorship, potential discrimination, and the hindrance of educational resources about sexual orientation and gender identity. HB1426, HB1855, HB2157, and HB1993, raise concerns about the potential suppression of LGBTQ+ materials in schools. While the bills purport to address the issue of explicit and harmful materials, their language is overly broad, especially in the definition of "harmful to minors," which could be subjectively construed to limit access to educational resources exploring LGBTQ+ topics. The risk of stifling inclusive and diverse educational resources is significant. In conclusion, these bills, if passed, could have severe consequences on the accessibility of LGBTQ+ materials, potentially leading to censorship and discrimination. I urge lawmakers to prioritize intellectual freedom, inclusivity, and the right to information for all individuals by reconsidering and revising these bills. It is essential to ensure that our educational institutions, libraries, and online platforms remain spaces that foster understanding, tolerance, and access to diverse perspectives.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAGE CORAM		PHONE NUMBER: 314-669-3425	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST., #1130			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: scoram@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 2:14 PM
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General Laws Committee Chairman Alex Riley Re: HB 1426, HB 1855, HB 1993 Dear Honorable Committee Members: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and our approximately 15,000 members statewide, I would like to express our strong opposition to HB 1426, HB 1855, and HB 1993. While the ACLU of Missouri is understanding of the overarching intention to increase safety online, these proposed measures raise serious concerns regarding privacy, surveillance, and First Amendment rights of Missourians. By introducing "age verification" requirements to access online materials, barriers are created for both minors and adults that result in a surrender of anonymity and a chilling effect on free speech online. "Reasonable age verification" in the proposed legislation encompass a wide-range of methods—including digitized identification cards, verifying government-issued IDs, and referencing transactional data related to housing, education, and employment—that each carry privacy risks, like data storage and retention. Simply put, determining the age of the user requires collecting sensitive information from all users. Under these measures, adult users would lose access to materials if they do not wish to upload sensitive identification information, or if they do not have access to necessary forms of identification. Required verification would unintentionally impact adult populations that have difficulty obtaining or renewing identification, such as those that do not drive, immigrants, people that are unhoused, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities. If passed, HB 1426, HB 1855, and HB 1993 would impose an unconstitutional burden on adult access to protected speech. Furthermore, similar legislation has been challenged in both Texas and Arkansas with the courts following long-established protections for speech online. The intention to regulate online speech based on "material harmful to minors" or its effects has not saved the regulation itself. Instead, courts have found that these barriers raise constitutional concerns that are compounded by the privacy impacts of age verification. Creating guardrails for safety online is a complex and evolving topic of public policy; however, we have a duty to ensure that solutions do not create unintended consequences or impede the First Amendment rights of minors and adults. For these reasons, the ACLU of Missouri is opposed to these measures, and we urge you to vote no on HB 1426, HB 1855, and HB 1993.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT MCKELLAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mck9@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2024 4:52 PM

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f you're going to apply brute force censorship, you really need to establish clear guidelines as to what is forbidden and what is permitted. This bill doesn't do that. How does one determine whether one third of a website is objectionable? Do you measure across the entire site, or each page separately? Do you count bytes? By that measure a single image file can easily overwhelm a substantial amount of text, and a video even more so. Or do you measure the screen real estate? Or do you count pages, comparing those with naughty bits to those without? What do you do when the site links to an image stored on another site? This bill provides zero guidance on these sorts of issues. Consequently a content provider has no reasonable way of determining what is allowed and what isn't. There is also no guidance about what constitutes "harm" to a minor who views such material, nor who would have standing to file suit. At best, this is a full employment bill for lawyers.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RUTHIE BARKO		PHONE NUMBER: 720-308-0842	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TECHNET		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL U.S.	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 113			
CITY: LITTLETON		STATE: CO	ZIP: 80160
EMAIL: rbarko@technet.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:46 PM
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The Honorable Alex Riley Chair House General Laws Committee Missouri House of Representatives 201 W. Capitol Avenue Jefferson City, MO 65101 Re: HB 1426, Establishes provisions relating to civil liability for publishing or distributing material harmful to minors on the internet, TechNet Amend Dear Chair Riley and Honorable Members of the General Laws Committee: I write on behalf of TechNet to suggest amendments and respectfully express our concerns with HB 1426 as currently drafted, to avoid significantly detrimental impact across a variety of services offered within Missouri. TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating 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 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, ecommerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet supports the intent of this bill and we ask that this bill is amended to further align with 2022 Louisiana bill HB 142. Our members are committed to online safety and work very hard to give users the tools to create the online experience that fits their needs. Along with software solutions, many content platforms employ entire teams of specialists who work to identify, remove, and report illegal content. This is a complex process that involves filtering out child pornography images identified by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and reporting new unlawful content to the proper authorities at all levels of government. Member companies partner with law enforcement, educational institutions, nonprofits, government agencies, and a wide range of organizations to provide consumer education to help protect children and adults from illegal and distasteful content on the internet. An educated consumer armed with technology is always the best protection against unwanted online interactions. Parent-Enabled Options TechNet members have empowered consumers with a number of tools to customize their online experience. Whether its parental controls on streaming television services or smartphone apps that help families manage their digital life across all connected devices, families have options when it comes to filtering content online. Additionally, there are many commercial, as well as free, content filtering and blocking solutions available that enable consumers to protect their families and themselves from illegal or inappropriate content. These solutions are widely available as both integrated and independent solutions for a wide range of technologies. Alignment with other State laws In 2022, Louisiana passed HB 142 and TechNet worked throughout the process to ensure that the law would protect minors while still creating a framework does not create an overly broad application that would affect private companies that do not publish and distribute harmful content. States have since considered similar laws and have looked to align them with this law, as substantial work was

done to refine the language in HB 142 to avoid unintended consequences. Without amendments, bills on this issue area can have the unintended consequences of platforms having to decide to ban entire categories of users and content for fear of being found liable under the application of overly broad language. TechNet therefore asks that HB 1426 is further aligned with the engrossed language of 2022 Louisiana HB 142, to create an interoperable environment for businesses aiming to comply with multiple state laws aimed at keeping children safe online. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to hold the other bills on this issue, HB 1855 (Banderman) and HB 1993 (Gallick) currently before the Committee and to amend HB 1426 to move forward. Thank you for your engagement on this issue and for your commitment to public safety. TechNet looks forward to working with the Committee to determine appropriate means to address any potential policy questions and can provide specific amendment markups as requested. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact me at rbarko@technet.org. Best regards, Ruthie Barko

Executive Director, Colorado & the Central U.S. TechNet