



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2157		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			
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			
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 7:46 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). This opens a dangerous door bordering on creating a registry. This is unacceptable.



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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 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			
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 1:51 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 2157, Establishes standards to promote the safety of minors using the internet and social media, TechNet Concerns, Opposition Dear Chair Riley and Honorable Members of the General Laws Committee: I write on behalf of TechNet to respectfully express our opposition to HB 2157, which presents onerous burdens for social media companies and online platforms and for the Missourians who use them. We outlined concerns with bills also before this Committee, yet were able to identify ways that at least one of them can be improved in the effort to reach common ground. HB 2157 creates such impossible restrictions and burdens for businesses operating in Missouri, that we must respectfully ask the Committee to not move this bill forward. 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. 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 and their family's needs. An educated consumer armed with technology is always the best protection against unwanted online interactions. TechNet members have empowered consumers with a number of tools to customize their online experience. Whether by activating 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. Parent-Enabled Options TechNet members have empowered parents with a number of tools to customize their children's online experience. Whether by utilizing 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. Age Verification Poses Widespread Problems While it seems like a simple requirement to enact, the age verification requirements in this bill are problematic. Age verification results in capturing massive amounts of sensitive personally identifiable information. Because of the civil penalties included in the bill, social media platforms would likely have no choice but to treat all users as if they are under the age of 18, resulting in age verification to be required before a Missouri citizen

accesses any content online. This is a monumental undertaking, not just for social media companies and online platforms, but a wide variety of companies with users in Missouri would be forced to take drastic measures in order to comply with this age verification requirement on the sites they offer. It is important to keep in mind that using a driver's license or government issued ID, as well as most other forms of age verification, result in a new collection of sensitive personal information that is not currently being collected by social media companies and other online platforms. This bill is claiming to solve one problem, by mandating the collection of a great deal more sensitive data that potentially creates other risks for Missourians. While we appreciate the goal of this bill to protect minors online, it will effectively force all users to hand over tranches of sensitive and personally identifiable data – just to use the internet. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to hold HB 2157, and invite the Committee to further study the issues and consider other legislation before the Committee that would not pose such tremendous compliance issues and risks for business and consumers alike. TechNet looks forward to working with the Committee to determine appropriate means to address any potential policy questions. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. If you have any questions regarding our opposition, please contact me at rbarko@technet.org. Best regards, Ruthie Barko

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



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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 2:08 PM

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General Laws Committee Chairman Alex Riley Re: HB 2157 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 2157. While the ACLU of Missouri is understanding of the overarching intention to increase safety online, the proposed "Children's Internet Safety Act" (CISA) raises serious concerns regarding privacy, surveillance, and First Amendment rights of Missourians. By introducing "age verification" requirements to create and hold a social media account, barriers are created for both minors and adults that result in the disclosure of sensitive information and a chilling effect on free speech. Age verification methods—such as uploading identification or utilizing transactional data—carry privacy risks and would ask all existing or potential users to assume this risk to maintain or create an account, regardless of the user's age. Simply put, determining the age of the user requires collecting sensitive information from all users. Under these measures, adult users would lose access if they do not wish to upload sensitive 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. CISA would also require parental consent and enable password sharing and access to a minor's social media accounts, raising additional privacy concerns. This effect would leave teenagers with very limited spaces to research, learn, and formulate their views privately. For LGBTQ+ youth in particular, this kind of parental notification could result in forced outing to guardians and expose youth to family rejection, violence, and harms to mental health. Many aspects of online life that inspire legislation like CISA, such as targeted advertising, algorithmic content recommendations, and addictive features are rooted in abuses of data. A privacy-forward bill can help protect minors online without raising the constitutional, privacy, or implementation challenges introduced by HB 2157. For these reasons, the ACLU of Missouri is opposed to this bill, and we urge you to vote no on HB 2157.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2024 10:30 AM
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This bill poses a risk to LGBTQ+ youth — risk of being outed and facing violence or family rejection. It would thwart the ability of young people to use social media as a means of finding community, educational resources, and support related to their identity. Protecting youth mental health online is a complex and evolving topic and there are no simple solutions to addressing the potential risks of social media — many of which, including depression and anxiety, are known to disproportionately harm LGBTQ+ youth. It is vital that legislation not have the unintended effect of harming vulnerable youth.



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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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