



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2392		DATE: 3/23/2026
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: GARRETT WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS; MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC.		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1219		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: webb@coestrategies.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 7:34 PM
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The Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Missouri Psychological Association strongly support efforts to improve safeguards to online content and the delivery of information to minors.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MATT THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NETWORK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE		TITLE:
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: matt@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 7:26 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: QUINTON HAYES JR.		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-480-2704
REPRESENTING: ISSACHAR LLC		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 292 FAITH BLVD.		
CITY: GRAVOIS MILLS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65037
EMAIL: timothy@issachar.llc	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 11:14 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 11:07 PM	

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I am Opposed to this Bill. Children are going to find ways and methods around getting onto Internet Sites.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 10:43 PM	

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I submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 2392, the so-called “Missouri Social Media Safety for Minors Act.” While framed as protective measures, these bills rely on heavy-handed, technologically infeasible mandates that will cause significant harm to the very minors they claim to shield, particularly those from marginalized communities.

Both bills mandate universal age verification for all Missouri users before account creation. This requirement is a privacy disaster waiting to happen. To comply, platforms will be forced to collect sensitive identification data from every resident, creating a centralized database of personal information. Such databases are a magnet for breaches and a direct threat to the safety of minors, whose data would become a target for malicious actors. This approach abandons privacy in the name of protection.

For LGBTQ+ youth, these bills present a grave danger. In a state where parental consent requirements can expose vulnerable young people to family rejection or even conversion practices, requiring verified parental permission for accounts creates an insurmountable barrier. For these minors, social media is not merely entertainment; it is often a vital, lifeline source of peer support, mental health resources, and identity exploration that they cannot access in their physical environment. Cutting them off from these spaces is not safety; it is isolation.

The bills also set a dangerous precedent by deputizing platforms to be arbiters of identity and government oversight agents. By mandating that platforms “immediately terminate any account” belonging to a minor below the age thresholds, we are forcing private corporations to enforce state policy without due process. This will inevitably lead to wrongful terminations, disproportionately impacting youth who lack the government-issued identification needed to appeal or verify their age.

We should be addressing the root causes of online harm through digital literacy education, robust privacy laws that protect all users, and holding platforms accountable for their design choices without forcing mass surveillance. Instead of mandating data collection and parental gatekeeping, we should be empowering young people with the skills to navigate the digital world safely.

These bills represent a regressive approach that will violate the privacy of every Missourian, endanger vulnerable youth, and fail to meaningfully improve safety. I urge you to reject them.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RILEY MCEVOY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 1:51 AM
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Hello I am opposed to imposing age verification on these platforms, specifically for two reasons. The first is that age verification programs introduce a greater risk of sensitive data being used or even compromised, even through you might have a platform follow safety guidelines. Also it I am unsure if a company can be held liable for choosing a bad service, such that they could have a lawsuit against them for choosing a partner service that collects data from the people it verifies. Secondly is the fact that if certain content on these platforms concerns you, why are the only people being protected children. I am sure addictive algorithms and minors in sexual content can be problems for adults as well, so why are children being targeted. It seems to be an allowance for these platforms to have this content on them, just that children can't see them, if they don't fool the verification systems.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2026 10:06 PM	

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Protecting minors online is an important public policy goal. However, HB 2392 raises significant concerns regarding data security, privacy, and the practical implementation of age-verification requirements.

Under this bill, social media platforms would be required to implement age-verification systems for all Missouri users prior to account creation. While the bill attempts to limit direct collection of identification from minors, the requirement still necessitates the handling and verification of sensitive personal data at scale.

Mandating identity verification for access to widely used online platforms creates a large and attractive target for data breaches, misuse, and unauthorized access.

This raises a critical issue of public trust.

Missouri residents have already experienced high-profile exposure of sensitive personal information held within state systems. In 2021, a vulnerability in a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education database allowed Social Security numbers belonging to more than 100,000 Missouri educators to be accessed through a public-facing website. Incidents like this have raised serious concerns about the ability of institutions to securely manage sensitive personal data.

When citizens have already experienced repeated exposure of personal identifying information, policies that expand identity verification requirements for everyday online activity are likely to deepen those concerns.

Laws that require identity verification as a condition of accessing online platforms also raise serious First Amendment concerns, particularly regarding anonymous speech. Courts have consistently subjected such laws to heightened scrutiny, and similar measures in other states have already been blocked or challenged. As drafted, this bill risks creating restrictions that will not withstand constitutional review and may result in costly litigation.

Finally, enforcement of state-specific requirements on global technology platforms presents practical challenges and risks creating inconsistent compliance standards across jurisdictions.

Parents should have meaningful tools to guide and protect their children online. However, policies designed to achieve that goal should not require widespread identity verification without first ensuring

that adequate safeguards, standards, and oversight mechanisms are in place.

Before requiring Missourians to submit personal data to access online platforms, the state should first demonstrate that it can reliably safeguard the data it already collects.

Expanding identity verification requirements without first restoring public trust in data security is not a solution—it is an escalation of the problem.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CADEN ROSENBAUM		PHONE NUMBER: 202-986-0916	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: REASON FOUNDATION		TITLE: MANAGING DIRECTOR, TECHNOLOGY POLICY	
ADDRESS: 1630 CONNECTICUT AVE NW			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20009
EMAIL: caden.rosenbaum@reason.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 9:22 AM	
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Chair Christ and members of the House Committee on Emerging Issues:

The Technology Policy Project at Reason Foundation provides pro bono consulting to public officials and stakeholders to help them design and implement technology policy reforms around the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies, digital free speech, data security and privacy, child online safety, and tech industry competition policy. Our team brings practical, market-oriented strategies to help foster innovation, competition, and consumer choice through technology policies that work.

While House Bill 2392 (HB 2392) is a worthy attempt to reinforce a parent’s role in keeping kids safe online, the bill suffers from constitutional concerns and privacy risks that must be addressed before it becomes law.

HB 2392 Risks Legal Challenges and Raises Constitutional Concerns

Utah was the first state to pass a bill similar to HB 2392, doing so in 2023 (Senate Bill 152). Legal challenges quickly followed, alleging the bill violated the First Amendment. Meanwhile, the state’s Attorney General requested the court reschedule hearings due to the legislature rewriting the law and postponing the effective date. The new law that followed, Utah Senate Bill 194, was enjoined for violating the First Amendment.?

Other states that have passed laws similar to HB 2392 have either lost in court, been forced to delay effective dates, or are now awaiting hearings. This includes Arkansas (permanent injunction), Georgia (preliminarily enjoined), Louisiana (pending judgment, effective date delayed), Tennessee (pending judgment), California’s Senate Bill 97616, which was blocked by the district court and the Ninth Circuit on appeal. Another similar bill, Mississippi’s House Bill 1126, was also struck down by the courts. The list goes on, including Texas, Ohio, and Maryland. Nebraska is likely to be added to that list within the year.?

HB 2392 Creates Clear Privacy Risks

HB 2392 mandates that companies employ “commercially reasonable methods” to verify the age of

users. In practice, these methods include requiring users to upload government-issued IDs and Social Security numbers or submit to biometric facial scans. The bill uses similarly ambiguous language when it requires a social media platform to verify the status of a parent or guardian, and when it requires age-verification methods that are “independently certifiable as compliant with standards for data minimization and security.”

This information, and the process used to gather and collect it, has not only led to privacy risks but also painted targets on the backs of companies that collect it, resulting in significant data breaches that could have been prevented had these laws not been in place. In 2025, for example, a vendor employed by the online platform Discord to comply with similar age-verification mandates set out in the UK’s Online Safety Act suffered a major breach, placing government IDs and biometric data from 70,000 users in the hands of hackers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony, and we welcome the opportunity to advise the legislature on this subject in the future.

Sincerely,
Caden Rosenbaum (caden.rosenbaum@reason.org)