



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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February 5, 2025

The Honorable Bob Lynn, Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary
New Hampshire General Court
Concord, NH 03301

Re: TechNet Opposition to HB 293

Dear Chairman Lynn:

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a 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 4.4 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

TechNet respectfully opposes HB 293, which would require internet-connected devices to be equipped by default with a content filter for material which may be harmful to children.

Our industry has a longstanding commitment to provide parents and guardians with resources to help ensure a safe online experience for their children, and the industry has been at the forefront of educating parents and guardians about online safety. As part of this commitment, industry has created a wide range of resources to enable parents and guardians to choose the right digital experience for their family. For example, Mobile Parent (www.mobileparent.org) – a recent campaign the wireless industry together created – provides educational materials and industry-backed tools for the parents and guardians of connected children. It details parental control features and offers guides and tips for safe mobile device usage. Instead of a government-mandated one-size-fits-all filtering requirement, the most effective approach to ensuring the digital safety of children is through parental empowerment and educational collaboration – policymakers and all stakeholders working together to educate consumers about the tools that are available to them, especially in today's ever-evolving world of technology.

The bill presents technologically and operationally infeasible requirements for device manufacturers across a variety of applications and content – including web, books,

movies, music, and video – with respect to setting filters. Mandating state-specific technical requirements for devices sold nationally is also unworkable. Operating systems and product features are not designed on a state-by-state basis and cannot change their programming based on location.

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.

However, filtering technology is imperfect, relying on a variety of means to prevent access to specific sites or content, much of which regularly changes. Completely reliable identification, blocking, and filtering capabilities like the bill calls for are not technologically feasible. Thus, the bill would seek to hold companies accountable for blocking all potentially harmful content under threat of litigation and other enforcement actions for a technologically impossible task.

Further, even if this type of restriction was feasible, the legislation would place device manufacturers in the role of deciding what content is harmful to minors and whether it should be restricted. If a private company inadvertently blocked lawful content, the company could face backlash from website owners and users, including civil liability and monetary damages. The courts, working closely with law enforcement, are the only lawful authority in the position to make these determinations.

Our members work with law enforcement, educational institutions, 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.

For these reasons, we ask that the committee find this legislation inexpedient to legislate.

Sincerely,



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