

A Letter in Opposition to SB648
7 April, 2026

To the members of the committee,

I, Mila Lapente, am writing to express my opposition to SB648. As researcher of new media and digital policy at the University of Amsterdam, my work on age verification laws indicates that these policies do not meaningfully prevent access to adult content or increase online safety. Instead, they are associated with increased VPN usage and greater reliance on pirated or illegally redistributed material, undermining the bill's stated purpose.

SB648 would impose age verification requirements on commercial websites that distribute material harmful to minors – however, *both* minors and adults would be exposed to privacy and security risks under this legislation, while doing little to address the underlying issue. In practice, such laws push users toward less regulated sites (which may host even more dangerous material) and stolen content, which can increase harm rather than reduce it.

For those reasons, SB648 is unlikely to be effective, and it risks burdening lawful speech and legitimate online services without achieving its goal. I respectfully urge the committee to reject this bill.

Sincerely,
Mila Lapente
Researcher and Advocate
Former resident of Portsmouth, NH