



STATE SENATOR BILL DEMORA 25th District

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony in support of Senate Bill 212.

Usually, I try to keep my speeches brief, tell you in plain words what this bill does, and allow for questions. But, as I am sure you have noticed, this bill has generated quite a bit of buzz, and I have seen several incorrect theories about what it is and what it will do. So, I first want to take a little bit of time to correct some of these narratives.

I have heard people say that this is a way for the State government to spy on people, which is crazy to me. I think I speak for everyone in this room when I say that I do not want to see what the people of Ohio are looking up in the privacy of their homes. Also, this bill clearly states that neither the website nor the government can keep any of the information provided.

I have also heard that this is an attempt to hurt needed services such as Planned Parenthood or LGBTQ+ organizations. And let me be perfectly clear. That absolutely WILL NOT happen in this bill! This bill uses the definition already in the revised code for adult content. Unless that definition was drastically changed, there is no chance of this bill being used for nefarious purposes. And I would be STRONGLY against changing that definition for this bill or just in general.

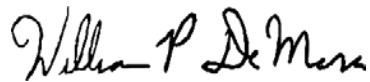
This bill is also not a phone ban, in the State of the State speech the Governor specifically mentioned this bill when talking about potentially banning phones in schools. I don't have an official position on banning phones in schools, and this bill has nothing to do with phones in schools.

Finally, I have heard that this will lead adult content providers to stop service in Ohio. I think that perfectly segues into what this bill actually is.

For decades, these huge, billion-dollar, multi-national corporations have been able to do whatever they want. Every single one of them is in court right now for cases involving child pornography. We cannot and should not let these huge corporations bully the government and the people. This bill is simply an accountability measure. It is saying that yes, you can do business in Ohio, but you cannot be negligent to the fact that we need to have protections against minors viewing adult content. Every single brick-and-mortar liquor store, corner store, and gas station cannot sell adult products of any variety without the consumer having an ID proving they are not minors. Why should these huge corporations get a pass just because they are online?

This bill is not anti-consumer; It is not anti-anything. It is just calling for more accountability. And I personally think it is very telling that when these websites are told that they have to do the bare minimum to try and protect minors, they panic and threaten to stop distributing in Ohio.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. DeMora". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Senator William P. DeMora
Ohio Senate District 25