



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

TechNet | Telephone 630.400.3439  
P.O. Box 10544 Chicago, IL 60610  
[www.technet.org](http://www.technet.org) | @TechNetMidwest

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Brian Stewart  
Ohio House of Representatives  
13th Floor, Vern Riffe Center  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

**RE: TechNet opposition to online speech restrictions outlined in HB 96**

Dear Representative Stewart,

I write on behalf of TechNet respectfully in opposition to the social media provisions outlined in HB 96.

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 4.5 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.

Our companies prioritize the safety and privacy of kids that access their sites and platforms. We strongly believe children deserve a heightened level of security and privacy and there are a number of efforts within the industry to incorporate protective design features into their websites and platforms. Our companies have been at the forefront of raising the standard for teen safety and privacy across our industry by creating new features, settings, parental tools, and protections that are age-appropriate and tailored to the differing developmental needs of young people.

This bill contains certain provisions related to content moderation, personalized recommendation systems, and algorithmic transparency that if enacted, may lead to unintended consequences, such as limiting free speech. By mandating the suppression of certain types of content deemed harmful, the legislation would likely run afoul of the First Amendment.

While the bill aims to protect minors, it may require platforms to collect and verify more personal data (e.g., age verification) than they otherwise would, which paradoxically could put users at greater privacy risk. This conflicts with data privacy best practices like privacy by design and data minimization, creates new vectors for fraud, and eliminates anonymity online.

And lastly, by defining and enforcing compliance with provisions like "compulsive use" or "design features that encourage excessive engagement" is subjective and may be difficult to standardize across different platforms.

We appreciate the opportunity to opine on this legislation, however, we must oppose this provision of the budget. Provisions to protect children, including their privacy, require thoughtful consideration and should not be rushed through the legislative process. If the Budget Bill contained a provision to study this issue in lieu of the policy proposals included currently, we would support that. This will allow stakeholders the opportunity to engage with the legislature on these issues.

If you have any questions regarding TechNet's opposition, please contact Tyler Diers, Executive Director of TechNet Midwest at [tdiers@technet.org](mailto:tdiers@technet.org) or 630-400-3439.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Diers', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tyler Diers  
Executive Director, Midwest  
TechNet