



# Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

May 28, 2025

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: David Mahan

Policy Director

Center for Christian Virtue

Re: HB226 proponent testimony

To Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn and the esteemed members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is David Mahan and I am the Policy Director for The Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization. Today I am testifying in support of HB226, which will require app stores to require parental approval before minors can download apps.

Technology is changing at the speed of light and nearly all children 15 and older own a smartphone today<sup>1</sup>. Parents can not be expected to monitor every app, every update and manage every risk, while the 91 billion dollar App Store Industry carelessly profits off of their kids. One of the ways HB226 will help the tech titans to take on some of this responsibility is by simply requiring app stores to prevent minors from entering into contracts. When users download an app, they typically need to agree to the app's terms of service, which describe the rules, policies, and conditions for accessing and using the app. 85% of parents agree that no child should be able to enter into such agreements without their consent, and that it would be easier to provide approval in one place vs. in each individual app (a 68% - 21% margin)<sup>2</sup>.

Another key provision of this bill would require clear and transparent age ratings. HB226 requires accurate app descriptions and allows parents to take legal action if an app store or developer knowingly misrepresents the risks, ensuring that they are held responsible for deceptive ratings. The Wall Street Journal recently exposed Apple for inaccurately labeling inappropriate apps as safe for young users<sup>3</sup>. The Canadian Center for Child Protection Report found that both Apple and Google's rating systems failed to

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.consumeraffairs.com/cell\\_phones/cell-phone-statistics.html#ownership-by-age](https://www.consumeraffairs.com/cell_phones/cell-phone-statistics.html#ownership-by-age)

<sup>2</sup>

[https://www.digitalchildhoodalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DCA-National-Poll-Memo\\_ASAA-5-1-25.pdf](https://www.digitalchildhoodalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DCA-National-Poll-Memo_ASAA-5-1-25.pdf)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.wsj.com/tech/apples-app-store-puts-kids-a-click-away-from-a-slew-of-inappropriate-apps-dfde01d>

accurately label and enforce the age ratings of the apps they promote<sup>4</sup>.

While tech titans strive to protect their own self-interest and quibble over the most convenient way to do so, state legislators and over 100 child advocates from across the country are convinced that this bill is an excellent step in the right direction<sup>5</sup>. In Utah, similar legislation passed with 96% of the vote in the Senate and 95% in the House. In Texas, it garnered 100% support in the Senate, 93% in the House, and it is currently awaiting the governor's signature. Hopefully, this committee will favorably report this pro-family, pro-child safety legislation in the same bipartisan manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. [www.ccv.org](http://www.ccv.org) -- (513) 733-5775*

P.O. Box 2945, Columbus, OH 43216 | **CCV.ORG**

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://protectchildren.ca/en/resources-research/app-age-ratings-report/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://james.house.gov/uploadedfiles/jamesleedigitalchildhoodalliance.pdf>