



**Chair Jim Thomas, Vice Chair D.J. Swearingen, Ranking Member Eric Synenberg, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,**

Thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf of the Developers Alliance, the leading advocate for developers, the companies they build, and the industries that rely on them. I am here to express our strong support for House Bill 302, which takes a thoughtful approach to keeping kids safe online.

HB 302 strikes the right balance between protecting children and allowing Ohio's developers, especially small and independent ones, to thrive. It requires age signals and parental consent where necessary, and applies these safeguards only to applications that provide different content, features, or interactions for users under 18. For example, kids should not need permission to download an educational math game in school. The bill also emphasizes privacy by limiting unnecessary data collection and adapting to evolving technologies.

This targeted approach contrasts HB 226, which would impose a one-size-fits-all rule requiring parental consent for *every* app a minor downloads, from high-risk social media platforms to simple weather apps. Parents already have tools to manage downloads, so additional blanket requirements would slow innovation without adding meaningful protections. Not to mention, HB 226 would send minors' age signals to *every* app, creating serious security risks for consumers and expensive compliance costs for developers.

By applying safeguards only where they are most needed, HB 302 protects families while keeping compliance practical. Just as importantly, it gives small and independent developers the freedom to innovate without being weighed down by unnecessary costs to handle age signals or legal complexity. This balanced framework also helps Ohio remain a competitive hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, attracting and supporting the next generation of developers, startups, and creative businesses.

We urge policymakers to swiftly advance HB 302 to protect children online while securing Ohio's leadership in innovation.