

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 302

Rev. Jeff Jemison

Ohio House Judiciary Committee

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Chairman, Vice Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here and for the work you do on behalf of Ohio's families. It is a privilege to speak with you about an issue that affects every home, every school, and every church in our state.

I stand before you as a pastor, a husband, and a father who has spent years walking alongside families trying to raise their children in faith. They are doing their best to build homes where values are taught and boundaries are clear, but they are also trying to protect their kids from a digital world that was not built with those values in mind.

HB 302 asks developers to build safer apps, avoid using children's data for advertising, and give parents the tools to help protect their own families. That's common sense, and it's moral sense too. When technology reaches into our children's lives, it carries the same responsibility as any other influence on a child's mind and heart.

This legislation also gives families a much-needed voice. It recognizes that parents, not government or corporations, should decide what is right for their children. The bill requires real, verifiable parental consent before a child can access certain apps or features that may expose them to adult content or conversations. It gives parents the right to say yes or no, and that's how it should be.

HB 302 also shows fairness. It gives companies that make a good-faith effort to comply protection from unfair punishment, because this should not be a battle between families and business. It should be a partnership to keep children safe. That's good policy, and it's good principle.

HB 302 empowers parents, expects accountability, safeguards privacy, and keeps faith and freedom working together. Thank you for your time, and may God bless you with wisdom as you serve the people and families of Ohio.