



Chairman Wilson, Ranking Member Lang, Ranking Member Craig and Members of the Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance & Technology Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is Katie DeLand, and I'm the co-founder of Ohio Women Lead Right—a group of moms, grandmothers, and women across Ohio who care deeply about protecting kids and strengthening families.

I'm here today in support of Senate Bill 167, the App Store Accountability Act.

Earlier this year, our organization wanted to hear directly from parents about online safety—so we commissioned a statewide poll. What we found was remarkable: 80% of Ohio parents support requiring app stores to get parental approval before kids can download apps. That's four out of five parents—across party lines. In fact, 85% of Republican parents and 77% of Democratic parents agreed.

It's rare to see that kind of unity these days, and it tells us something important—this isn't about politics. It's about giving parents the tools they need to protect their kids.

Right now, parents are overwhelmed. New apps and social media platforms show up every week, and it's almost impossible to keep up. We're working full-time jobs, running households, helping with homework, and driving to practice—and trying to figure out if the newest app our kids ask about is as truly as innocent as it appears to be.

Senate Bill 167 makes that a lot easier. When a child tries to download an app, the parent gets a quick notification—right on their phone. You can look at the app, decide if it's appropriate, tap yes or tap no—and that's it. Simple.

And there's another big benefit: this bill protects our kids' privacy. It verifies age once, securely, at the app store level—so your child's personal information isn't being shared over and over again with hundreds of different apps and websites.

That's what makes this approach smart. It keeps families in control and keeps kids' information safe, and it has withstood the Constitutional appeals that other laws have fallen to. No one has the time to waste on laws that have a history of getting overturned in court, so uniting behind a proven legislative model is strategic, efficient, and common sense.

At the end of the day, Senate Bill 167 is about parental rights, family authority, and protecting children online.

On behalf of Ohio Women Lead Right, I respectfully ask for your support and welcome any additional questions.