

Members of the committee, I'm Chris Valentine, a Dublin Board of Education member and small business owner. I appreciate the chance to testify today in support of SB 167, the App Store Accountability Act.

As someone who works closely with families and educators in our district, I see firsthand how parents struggle to keep up with the digital challenges their children face. New apps emerge constantly, each with different features and potential risks. Parents want to be involved, but the current system makes that nearly impossible without significant time and technical knowledge.

SB 167 provides a solution that actually makes sense for busy families. When a child attempts to download an app, parents receive one notification at the app store level. They can evaluate the app and approve or deny the download. It's straightforward, and it uses systems that already exist rather than creating new bureaucracy.

I'm concerned that Senate Bill 175 would take Ohio in the wrong direction by fragmenting age verification requirements across apps, browsers, operating systems, and other platforms. That approach doesn't simplify digital parenting—it makes it exponentially more complicated. Parents would face an overwhelming number of settings to configure and maintain, and we know from experience that complicated systems simply don't get used consistently.

SB 175 also multiplies privacy risks by requiring children to share personal data with numerous entities instead of centralizing verification securely at the app store.

SB 167 is the better path forward for Ohio families.

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