

Chair, members of the committee – I work in hospital IT, so I see data breaches and privacy failures regularly. That professional experience shapes how I think about my teens and their phones.

I understand systems, security, and risk. The App Store Accountability Act consolidates age verification into one secure checkpoint instead of scattering kids' personal information across dozens of different apps. From a data security standpoint, that's exponentially safer.

Right now, teens can hand over personal information about their age to any number of apps without parental knowledge. Each one becomes another vulnerability. Another company storing their data. Another potential breach. As someone who deals with these failures professionally, this concerns me deeply.

This legislation provides visibility and control without unnecessary complexity. Parents get a simple notification when their child wants to download something. We can have a conversation about it. We can make informed decisions based on what we know about our own kids.

Requiring age verification across multiple platforms – app stores, individual apps, browsers, operating systems – creates exactly the kind of fragmented system that increases risk rather than reducing it.

Eighty percent of Ohio parents support this approach. We're asking for practical tools that actually work in real family life.

Please pass the App Store Accountability Act.

Thank You.

Jane Mowery  
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