

Good afternoon Chairman Wilson and members of the Committee.

I'm Heather Bayer, a dental hygienist and mother of three from Columbus. I'm testifying in support of SB 167, the App Store Accountability Act.

In my work, I talk to parents all day long while their kids are in the chair. The anxiety about what children are doing online comes up constantly. Parents feel helpless because their kids can download apps without them knowing, and by the time they discover what's been happening, real harm may have already occurred.

What parents tell me they need most is awareness. They're not trying to lock their children away from technology entirely. They understand that digital literacy matters for their kids' futures. But they want to be part of the conversation when new apps come into their children's lives.

SB 167 provides exactly that kind of awareness by requiring parental approval at the point of download. It's not intrusive, and it's not complicated. It simply ensures that before an app lands on a child's device, a parent knows about it and has the chance to evaluate whether it's appropriate. This mirrors how app purchase notifications already work, so the technology and infrastructure are already in place.

The bill also addresses a critical privacy concern by keeping age verification centralized rather than forcing children to provide personal information to countless individual platforms. As a healthcare professional, I understand how important it is to minimize unnecessary data collection, especially for minors. Please support SB 167.

Thank you.

Heather Bayer
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