



Ohio State Senate
1 Capitol Square Columbus
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Honorable Members of the Ohio Senate:

The Conservative Political Action Coalition (CPAC) is the nation's oldest grassroots advocacy organization. Founded over 50 years ago, CPAC has a track record of advancing policies that reduce the size of government, protect liberty, and ensure the safety of the communities we live in. As part of our work to achieve these goals, CPAC established the Center for Combating Human Trafficking to represent a wide swath of conservative leaders focused on public safe, supporting survivors and fighting to end modern day slavery. After careful consideration, we write in strong support of the *App Store Accountability Act* (House Bill 226 / Senate Bill 167). This vital legislation ensures that parents, not tech companies, retain control over what their children can access online.

Every day, predators exploit unregulated digital platforms to target children for grooming, extortion, and trafficking. The lack of meaningful parental consent and age-verification standards on app stores has created a dangerous digital environment. By requiring app store providers to verify a parent or guardian's consent before minors download or contract for applications, this bill closes a critical loophole that traffickers have learned to exploit.

We commend the sponsors and the legislature for recognizing that protecting children online is not a partisan issue: it's a moral one. Similar to long-standing protections governing alcohol, tobacco, and contracts, this legislation properly regulates minors' ability to engage in commercial digital activity without infringing on free speech or privacy rights.

Our children are spending unprecedented time online, often unsupervised, and are being exposed to harmful content, predators, and trafficking networks. Passing the *App Store Accountability Act* is a proactive step that will save lives and reinforce parental rights at a time when both are under threat.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at frusso@conservative.org.



Frank W. Russo Jr.

Director, CPAC Foundation's
Center for Combating Human
Trafficking