



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

My name is Nicole Lesnick, and I am the current President of the Ohio Parent Teacher Association, as well as a parent of eight children ages 9 to 22. I'm reaching out to express my support for Senate Bill 167, which would require app stores to verify users' ages and obtain parental consent before minors can download certain applications.

As both a parent and an advocate for Ohio's families, I believe it's critical to give parents and caregivers a centralized and consistent way to approve the apps their children use. Today's teens use dozens of apps across multiple platforms, making it nearly impossible for parents to monitor each one individually. By placing the responsibility on app stores to verify age and obtain parental consent, this legislation creates a single, efficient process that empowers parents without creating unnecessary burdens to their already busy lives.

This structure also avoids the confusion and inconsistency that would come from requiring thousands of apps to manage their own verification systems. Instead, SB 167 creates a streamlined safeguard at the point of download, ensuring every app follows the same parental content standard.

Parents and caregivers want their children to have safe and age-appropriate experiences online, but the pace of technology makes that increasingly difficult. Senate Bill 167 ensures parents can play an active role in guiding those experiences and helps protect children from the real risks that exist in the digital world.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to keeping Ohio's kids safe online.

Respectfully,

Nicole Lesnick
President
Ohio Parent Teacher Association