

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
For HB 1181

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Hearing Date: April 5, 2023 8:00 AM

Cindy Triggs
Self - retired
Georgetown, TX

I urge you to vote for HB 1181 in an effort to protect children from pornography on the internet.

I also recommend that you amend the bill to apply to children under the age of 18, instead of 13. It is not appropriate for children under the age of 18 to view pornographic material. It is especially demeaning to girls, who tend to be objectified and even assaulted.

How can we expect children to become responsible adults who treat others with respect if we allow them to watch content that is prurient, demeaning or worse?

Please stand up for the children of Texas and support HB 1181.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Donofrio

Self / Parent

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1181.

I urge you to let it die in committee.

HB 1181 is unenforceable:

Section 129B.002 (b) specifies that "An organization that owns an Internet website, including an organization that owns a social media Internet website, must include a mechanism on the website that prevents a user from accessing pornographic material on the website unless the user verifies that the user is 13 years of age or older." lines 19-23, p1.

There is currently no way to meet this portion of the bill. The EU has pushed harder than almost all entities to find a way to do this. "Organizations" recognize the need for such a control as a general element of what are considered parental controls. This is especially true for sites that deal with/in pornography. All the past and current attempts have failed. People have found effective work-arounds. This group includes minors.

Until such technology is available and widely accessible, holding the providers liable is unenforceable.

Same for parents, guardians, teachers, etc. if a bill were proposed placing liability on them.

It also wastes the time of law enforcement.

I believe a far better solution is for us to provide support to "organizations" so they can meet this currently unenforceable specification.

Texas is a hub for software development. We have significant expertise within our university system. I propose the state create a grant program to focus on a way to ensure age restrictions can be established. We already do so for other pressing issues.

HB 1181 instead places "organizations" on the defensive. The "organizations" and the state seek the same thing. Why create or make an adversarial relationship worse. That serves no one, except those who wish to peddle offensive material. We must learn to work together.

I see a great opportunity for Texas to lead the way when it comes to helping create the filtering system this bill envisions. That is in the Public Safety Interest of all Texans.

Unfortunately, HB 1181 is not the path we need to follow right now.

I urge you to let it die in committee.

I urge you to focus instead on helping develop the age verification system needed before any legislation like HB 1181 is proposed.

Respectfully,

Chris J. Donofrio