

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select
For HB 3570

Compiled on: Monday, April 10, 2023 7:10 PM

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Hearing Date: April 10, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Marisa Williams
Self/SAHM
McKinney, TX

As a family of four, we support HB 3570. It's pretty shocking to see the crazy things that pop up on our computer screens. As a result we really limit screen time. Thank you to Rep Schatzline and all the co-authors for submitting this bill. We sincerely hope it passes Committee and gets on Calendars.

Aaron Case
Self
Fort Worth, TX

This bill is simply another attempt for representatives to legislate with their own religious beliefs in order to dictate what is moral and immoral in the state of Texas. A young child absolutely should not see all there is to see on the Internet; however, I feel that this falls under the parent's discretion on how they want their children to use the devices that give them access to the Internet. Is a parent's smart phone used as a pacifier for misbehavior, and is the child given unlimited access to whatever is on that device? Then it will be on the parent to have to intervene and create those boundaries once they've been crossed. So, the bill hopes to relieve parents from having to tackle those tough conversations with their kids about sex and sexual development. But in fact, it is these sorts of conversations where the opportunity lies for parents to offer healthy depictions of sex, rather than turning to the Internet for answers.

This debate on how we educate children on the subject of sex has waged its way through Texas law for decades. Teens become confused because one teacher uses abstinence-only and faith-based sex education, and then another uses scare tactics of sex organs mutilated by STDs to get the point across. It's no wonder that teens resort to the Internet for understanding, rather than the adults who they ought to trust.

The bill's solution? Present your driver's license or State ID to access porn. Sure, we hand over our ID to vote, get into a bar or buy cigarettes. Adult websites say 18 or older, and in all of these previously listed scenarios, the ID is the way to prove it.

What is not clear is where the "digital ID" information will be stored. In other states that have gone in this direction, the same digital license used to access porn, is the housed in the same app used to access SNAP benefits, or when you have to make a court appearance. For someone who uses SNAP, having their adult website searches associated with other state programs is very much an overstepping in privacy.

There is a certain amount of shame that this bill wants to bring upon grown adults who view porn as well. And it is unclear how the data collected from digital licenses will be used in the future. While other states share that the data is purely used to verify age, there is no guarantee of privacy when a person's address, DL number, eye color, is handed over to a third-party system. Will LGBTQ+ people be tracked and targeted for accessing sexual material that up until 2003 (Lawrence v. Texas) was viewed as punishable in the state of Texas? Will Texas legislatures, future legislatures, or possibly even the author of this bill be admonished for viewing sexual material at all?

The vague, short-sighted and theocentric nature of the bill is a dangerous attempt for a pastor to parent our children and have inappropriate access into the everyday Texan's personal information. Your faith is not my faith, and I should not have to live by it.

richie Grant
self, licensed professional counselor
texarkana, TX

My father had 5 porn stores in southern California. In those days there was no internet. The internet is a cesspool of perpetrators looking for victims. There needs to be some 'stop' measures for underage children. Sex is interesting but there must be ways to protect our society from those who are grooming children and causing irreparable harm to them. I support this Bill.

Charlene Reagan
Self and True Texas Project
SPICEWOOD, TX

Support 3570

I agree that ID should have to be provided to access adult content websites. Let's keep porn out of our public schools and libraries please. There is absolutely no need for anyone to access these sites at schools or public facilities.

Jennifer Yoch
Self teacher
Blue Ridge, TX

I support this bill. It is unlawful for minors to access pornography. At the very least, a photo ID showing the person visiting the site is of legal age should be required.

Brian Burgess, Pastor
Self
Waxahachie, TX

As a pastor I am having to counsel younger and younger boys because of their exposure to soul-damaging porn readily available on their electronic devices. This law will protect the innocence of children and help prevent the dehumanization of women. Please pass this legislation. Brian

Judith Neal
Self
Plano, TX

I'm in support of Rep Schatzline's bill restricting minors access to sexually explicit material on the internet. Children need to be protected and there needs to be restriction in place. Please join me and support this very timely bill.

Sharon Tryon, Mrs
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill.

Thank you,

Sharon Tryon

John Wesley Tryon, Mr.
Self Allstate
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill.

Thank you,

Wesley Tryon

Nanette Ellis
Church
Midlothian, TX

Protect TX children

Dorinda Sims
self
Midlothian, TX

Please vote FOR passage of HB3570! We NEED this to protect the innocence of our children! It is appalling to me that anyone, (person or organization or business) would exploit our children by exposing them to such sexual content at such a young age. Vote FOR HB3570 to protect our children!

James Ransdell

Self

Seguin, TX

Please support this bill for our Kids

Larry Rister, Mr.

Self - oil and gas operator

Eastland, TX

Please vote "yes" on HB 3570 so that we can help protect our youngsters from the devastating addition to pornography by doing everything we can to keep it away from them. I was addicted for most of my life before God miraculously freed me from it, so I know how difficult it is to stop once started. Thank you for your positive vote.

Tony Sheffield

SELF: PASTOR

Maypearl, TX

WE SHOULD DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO PROTECT UR CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL MATERIAL ON THE INTERNET!

Rick Palmer, Mr

Self

Cypress, TX

I support this bill and ask that it be voted out of committee to the House floor for a vote.

Tom Nobis

The Republican Party of Texas and Self

Houston, TX

I am For the bill. The Republican Party of Texas has designated this bill as meeting the Legislative Priority "Stop Sexualizing Kids".

As the internet website provides many opportunities to view sites with sexual material harmful to minors, restricting such access will help children grow in a wholesome manor enabling parents to teach at a time appropriate to enable their children to become a productive member of the society.

Karole Fedrick

Texas Eagle Forum and Self, Researcher, writer

Austin, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill to protect Texas children from those who prey upon their innocence and vulnerability. If we can't protect children, there is no future for any of us.

Sylvia Coulson

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill. We must protect our children.

John Hamak

self

Amarillo, TX

I support this bill. No child should be exposed to pornographic material

Jake Wilson
Self - CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 3570 and thank Representative Schatzline for authoring it. It's very important to keep pornography away from kids. Quite frankly, adults should work to avoid seeing pornography themselves. Studies show it can cause dissatisfaction in marriages, which in turn can increase the number of children growing up without both parents in the home. This in turn can create several mental health and social challenges for these children. Also, pornography boosts the sex trafficking industry. If someone views pornography online, there is usually not a way for users to verify if the person they viewed gave consent for the content to be published. Please pass HB 3570. Thank you very much.

Randy Bellomy, Mr.
self
Ovilla, TX

i am for this bill no one should be exposed to this type of material.

Michelle Evans
Self
Round Rock, TX

Age verification is a minimum that we should expect from any company running a website which may expose minors to sexually inappropriate or harmful content. Children are being exposed to pornography via personal devices and the internet at a younger age, and that content is becoming far more violent and offensive in nature. It serves a compelling interest for the state to get involved to protect our younger generations from the harms of pornography in whatever way it can.

Kristian Robles Cruz, Mr
Self
Roanoke, TX

Is time to set up our kids to have successful lives. As a person that deals with kids EVERYDAY porn is destroying the next generation and we need to help them by have restriction when it comes to accessing sexual materials when they are under the age of 18. Time to help the future generation.

Melody Allen
self - Logistics Manager
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill.

Howard Gibbs, Mr
Self
Haskell, TX

I am in strong support of this bill. Thanks

Mary Smith
Self, retired
Arlington, TX

I support HB 3570 protecting underage children from online pornography. If they are not protected now, when will they be protected?

Caroline Roberts

CHILDREN AT RISK

Houston, TX

Policy Change

HB 3705 would require websites that provide material inappropriate for minors to use a means of age-verification. This policy change would require that websites are held responsible for what they are putting out there for minors to consume and its possible effects. These companies profit from publishing such content and should therefore face potential consequences. Additionally, they are best positioned to ensure that children are not accessing content that is inappropriate for their development. This would require a simple age verification. Children at Risk has been a long-time advocate in the fight against human trafficking, and this bill would be a step in the right direction.

Background

Most minors have been exposed to pornography by 13 years old, and for many children, exposure to pornography continues to shape their understanding and education around sex. Exposure to sexual images can also normalize gender-based violence and non-consensual sexual acts often depicted in such images or videos. In fact, one study found that almost half of surveyed videos depicted physical aggression, and that women were the victims of this aggression 97% of the time (Fritz, N., Malic, V., Paul, B., & Zhou, Y. (2020). A Descriptive Analysis of the Types, Targets, and Relative Frequency of Aggression in Mainstream Pornography. Archives of sexual behavior, 49(8), 3041–3053. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-020-01773-0>). The pornography industry not only depicts fictitious scenes of questionable consent—certain websites are also notorious for allowing the publication of videos to which the people featured have not consented or are too young to consent. Even in cases involving a minor, some videos have been left up for months or longer, and victims are revictimized with every viewing (<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-51391981>).

It is important that our children learn about healthy relationships and intimacy in an age-appropriate and safe manner from the trusted adults in their lives. We must not raise our young people to think that the commercial sexual consumption of another person is normalized behavior. As we teach children about their relationship to themselves and others, we can raise future generations with a healthy understanding of respect, trust, and consent. In other words, we have the opportunity to raise a generation that is not vulnerable to traffickers or willing to be a part of the demand for trafficked victims.

Summer Crow

Parents

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB3570. This is common sense legislation we needed 10 years ago but since we didn't, we have the option to continue on the path we are on (exponentially increasing pornography addictions) or to do what we can to help our youth and make it more difficult to access content that is harmful to their still developing brains. Please support this legislation. We make alcohol, drugs and nicotine difficult for minors to access, why would we make pornography freely accessible when it's just as harmful?

Anne Griffin

self -- retired teacher

Red Oak, TX

I wholeheartedly support the passing of HB 3570 in that we have altogether too much unmonitored access to highly sexualized materials that children may get. This needs to be stopped and I believe that this bill would help in that endeavor greatly. Our children are exposed to way too many adult situations that they are not ready to face either physically or mentally, and certainly not spiritually. Please do the right thing and get this bill out for a vote.

Don Griffin

retired

Red Oak, TX

I wholeheartedly support the passing of HB 3570 in that we have altogether too much unmonitored access to highly sexualized materials that children may get. This needs to be stopped and I believe that this bill would help in that endeavor greatly. Our children are exposed to way too many adult situations that they are not ready to face either physically or mentally, and certainly not spiritually. Please do the right thing and get this bill out for a vote.

Valeria Nevarez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Protecting the minds of our young Texans should be a priority. The minds of youth is contaminated by the exposure to sexual material. This bill will prevent minors from reaching that sort of harmful content. I support HB 3570! It is time to protect the next generation!

Shannon Ayres

Self

Frisco, TX

I am in full support of HB 3570. Please pass.

Stephanie Heady

Self

Fort Worth, TX

We are 20 years late on this!

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

Support

Children need to be protected from pornography.

Kendra Vaughn

Self

Keller, TX

I support HB 3570

Bonnie Wallace

self; retired

Llano, TX

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. Our children have become targets of extremely harmful content, including pornography, and they need protection. Vote YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Stephanie Nevarez

Nevarez Family

Fort Worth, TX

Let's keep children away from sexualized content! Let's protect their innocence!!

Kim Druyvesteyn

Self- social media coordinator

Fort worth, TX

I support HB 3570

shanna gerberding, Mrs.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 3570

Laura Wilhite, Mrs.

Salt and Light

Eddy, TX

Support Age verification for access to protect access by minors to adult porn sites

Heidi Pezdek

Myself

Lorena, TX

I support HB 3570 to protect minors. Proof of age is required for on line gambling. Pornography Sites stalk minors. Please place an age restriction on access to Porn Sites to protect children.

Bernice Gould

self

Ft. Wirth, TX

Pornography should not be allowed at all in a civil society. Kids should never have access. Pass the bill.

Denise Linn

Myself, a former teacher

Keller, TX

It is sad that I even need to speak out in favor of this bill but this threat of pornographic material is real and is an attack on the innocence of children. As a former teacher, I have spoken at many of Keller's school board meetings and have made the point that I would get removed from the classroom for having graphic sexual material available to my students and would undeniably face charges as well. I understand the other side of this issue implies that I am anti-LGBTQ because I have this opinion—untrue! I have a family member who is a lesbian and wouldn't disparage her even though I don't understand the path her life has taken. When I was teaching, I saw students who tried to appear like the opposite sex and understood they were dealing with their sexuality as it was developing and that these kids have a very high incidence of suicide—I support books that help them make sense of this confusing time but don't understand why so many of these books have sex scenes that make me blush! The purpose of the questionable books I have read (approximately a dozen) is to indoctrinate young, impressionable, students to draw conclusions in their confusion that they are probably LGBTQ and that if they think they may be trans-sexual, that they should start procedures that are harmful and irreversible immediately. Again, I'm not critical of the LGBTQ movement—I understand that some people have sexual feelings that are unusual and that they have to work through them as they mature. I am against exposing elementary, middle, and high school aged kids to pornography that I have found in the questionable books I have read—this approach is damaging to the students, is wrecking their innocence, and is sending them a message that their confusion must be a sign that they are LGBTQ. As for the argument that kids will find this material online so school districts might as well provide it—this is faulty and twisted. Do we supply them with cigarettes, vape products, marijuana, fentanyl, or even coffee? Of course not since these substances are harmful to their physical, mental, and psychological development and supplying any of these products implies that they are acceptable and are not harmful. You need to stand up for our targeted youth and pass this bill that adds a measure of safety against the attacks of the progressive movement. Thank you.

Cristal Castillo

Self

Fort Worth, TX

"I support HB 3750 because we need to protect the innocence of children!"

Austin Griesinger, Policy Director
Texas Family Project
Weatherford, TX

Websites that provide access to harmful, and oftentimes illegal, sexual material have been allowed to operate with absolute impunity for far too long. The Texas Family Project supports HB 3570 and its goal of placing the onus of verifying the age of visitors to websites and social platforms on those who run the sites. Minors currently have nearly unlimited access to material that is harmful and degrading. Requiring the owners of these platforms to at least verify that their visitors are not minors is common sense.

Gary McFadden
Self. Retired
Grapevine, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children. Thank you

Heather FitzGerald
Self
Azle, TX

This seems like a no-brainer. Kids should NOT have free access to porn o line, anymore than they should freely buy it or cigarettes or alcohol in a store.

Monica Cline
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I support HB 3570. Pornography is a public health hazard and Texas should lead to restrict it from affecting our most valuable asset, our children, who are our future leaders of this state. According to data gathered by Fight the New Drug and many other anti-porn and anti-human trafficking organizations, pornography has shown to increase sex trafficking, it profits from non-consensual content and abuse, it distorts a person's healthy view of sex, it promotes sexual violence, it leads to negative mental health impacts and loneliness. As we have seen the depression and suicide rates rise among youth, this bill is common sense legislation that will can save our Texas children from the negative impacts of pornography and potential human trafficking. The civil liability will ensure that the porn industry will be held responsible for their harmful impact on children.

ANNE NEWMAN
self
Boerne, TX

Please support HB 3570 to protect children from harmful materials. I have read that teens exposed to harmful materials, such as pornography, are now molesting and sexually assaulting younger children.

Raquel Vallejo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I agree

Suzanne Johnston
Self
Southlake, TX

We restrict minors access to alcohol, firearms, cold medication, spray paint, and more. Why in the world would we not restrict access to sexual material on the Internet? There is no reason that makes sense when you put the needs of the minor first. If you think this bill is a bad idea you must think the needs of companies to make money is more important than protecting childhood. Our primary job as adults is to protect children. Do you job.

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair

(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)

CISCO, TX

We support HB 3570, believing it will help to protect underage children from online pornography -- a valuable goal.

Please vote "Yes" on HB 3570.

Caryl Ayala

Concerned Parents of Texas

New Braunfels, TX

As an advocate and Texas resident, I approve of this bill. Please support all the way through to the governor's desk. Texas families need help protecting their minor children from sexually explicit material online. Thank you for filing this bill.

Gabby Cedillo

Self

NRH, TX

Pass bill!

Aileen Blachowski

Self

Prosper, TX

I support reasonable age-verification measures to access websites where a visitor might encounter adult sexual content. Please pass this bill!

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director

Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Flint, TX

Grassroots America - We the People PAC, a statewide organization instituted in 2009, strongly supports HB 3570 by Rep. Nate Schatzline and numerous co-authors.

Studies show the ease at which minors are able to access pornography is poorly controlled and allows exposure and exploitation of children online. Pornography is strongly biologically addictive, desensitizing brain reward circuits, increasing conditioned responses, and weakening brain function.

Children should be children. With easy access to internet porn, the innocence of childhood is compromised. Viewing pornography is confusing and damaging to the innocent mind. Children may become traumatized and have their health and safety endangered (or they may endanger others) because of mixed messages on consent, boundaries, and appropriate behavior.

Pornography rapes the minds of children and normalizes behavior that promotes the utter degradation of our culture and reduces human sexuality to soul-eating animalistic acts. We simply MUST do more to protect children and to safeguard their development into tomorrow's responsible adults.

Please quickly pass HB 3570 out of committee and report it out to Calendars. Texas children deserve a vote on HB 3570!

Thank you for your service to the People of Texas. Remember, what you do on this committee actually impacts the entire state and thereby, our nation.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Fleming

Executive Director

Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Kathy Ponce, Self
Self
Maypearl, TX

I support this bill. Please get this bill passed out of Committee today.

Kathy Kent-Chick, Mrs.
Chick Family
Lorena, TX

Strongly support HB 3570

Our efforts to work with the local school Superintendent here in Lorena, Texas has not proven effective in getting the filthy books from the school libraries. We have gone through the requested protocols starting one year ago and humbly spoken before the Lorena ISD School Board meetings several times. The books are pure pornography with graphic details about sexual encounters. The language is filthy as well.

My husband, Mark Chick has even gone all the way to the Capitol to make a presentation of details. Please make this about our kids and clean up these schools ASAP! This is ugent.

We had no choice but to pull both of our kids, 9 & 11, out of the school this year and presently doing a homeschool routine.

Meanwhile the taxes for supporting a local school are still required!

Is this kind of situation what the State of Texas really wants? The whole United States are watching Texas so please stand up!

Thank you, Kathy Kent-Chick

Teresa Bussell, Dr.
Self
Powderly, TX

I am writing in support for HB 3570

Gail Bryan
Self
Lorena, TX

Vote in favor to restrict access to sexual material harmful to minors on an internet website.

Kathy Kent-Chick
Chick Family
Lorena, TX

Strongly Support this legislation! Please work swiftly to protect our children from sexualization in all its ugly forms! How can this be tolerated?

Texas is about family values, morals, God given rights that parents should be able to control what the kids are exposed to. The present educators think they need to be the parent & seem to feel they know better. Please place restraints to protect the most innocent among us, our kids!

Sincerely, Kathy