

January 22, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

We support HB 254 by Representative Vance that requires online pornographers to comply with reasonable age-verification requirements. In just two years, eight states have passed this bill, and it has overcome each court challenge that it has faced in Louisiana, Utah, and Texas. When the bill first passed in Louisiana, a spokesperson from pornhub told CNN that since the Louisiana law went into effect, traffic from that state had fallen 80%. Today, pornhub has shut down service completely in Louisiana and each state that passes this law.

Today, children generally have instant access to online pornography all the time. Even when a parent safeguards all devices in connection with their child, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 1 in 10 pornography sites still remain accessible. According to Pew Research, only 39% of parents actually use filtering/blocking software, which leaves 61% of children exposed. Additionally, it's inevitable that a child will have a friend with an unprotected device, which is also a common form of exposure- peer to peer. This is a crisis, and it's evidenced by 18 states in the U.S., since 2016, declaring pornography as creating a public health crisis or hazard in their state.

Like the online sale of alcohol, nicotine, and vaping, and online gambling, it's time for online pornographers to bear the reasonable burden of ensuring children aren't gaining access to harmful material. We support this proven effort to protect children from online pornography, and urge legislators in Alaska to vote in support.

Sincerely,

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