

April 7, 2026

**RE: Opposition to S2968 and impacts on LGBTQ+ young people**

Dear Chair Gu and members of the Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology Committee,

The Trevor Project writes to express our opposition to S2968, which would require parental consent for young people under 18 to create or maintain a social media account and impose concerning parental control features. We urge you to oppose S2968 in its current form, which will prevent LGBTQ+ young people from accessing life-saving online support systems.

The Trevor Project is the leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ+ young people. Trevor offers 24/7 crisis services, connecting highly trained counselors with LGBTQ+ young people whenever they need support. To drive prevention efforts, The Trevor Project also operates robust research, advocacy, education, and peer support programs. Finally, to support our mission of ending LGBTQ+ youth suicide, we have created TrevorSpace, the world's largest safe space social networking site designed specifically for LGBTQ+ young people ages 13-24. TrevorSpace is a moderated online community that provides a welcoming environment for young people to explore their identities, find peer support, and make friends.

We know from research – and from what LGBTQ+ young people tell our trained counselors at Trevor – that social media has the potential to cause harm. Social media can contribute to negative outcomes such as bullying, anxiety, depression, and eating disorders, and it's important that these issues are addressed through proactive measures. We applaud the intent behind S2968 to protect young people from the harms of social media.

However, we cannot ignore the reality that many LGBTQ+ young people – especially those who do not live in supportive homes or communities – turn to the internet to better understand themselves, and to find support and belonging. These online spaces can be life-saving; **LGBTQ+ young people with access to affirming online spaces report significantly lower odds of attempting suicide.** Properly designed and moderated, platforms like TrevorSpace have demonstrated the ability to bring youth together, connect them to the support they need, and even positively impact their mental health and well-being.

While S2968 aims to protect the mental health of young people, the requirements to obtain parental consent for young people under 18 to create or maintain social media accounts and provide parental control features concerning a young person's posts and messages will have unintended consequences. These provisions do not take into account that different young people have different needs, and will especially cause unintended harm for LGBTQ+ young people who are at the highest risk. LGBTQ+ young people who do not feel safe or supported in their home or community often seek supportive spaces online, as well as information to better understand their identity. Requiring parental consent and account access to create any social media account may force LGBTQ+ young people to choose between risking rejection and safety by having their identity inadvertently disclosed, or remain isolated without access to critical support systems and mental health support.

As the legislature considers legislation intended to make social media safer for young people, we hope you will take these unique experiences of LGBTQ+ young people into account and reject provisions that would strip them of life-saving online support systems. The relationship between social media and youth mental health is nuanced, and the solutions should be too, leaning into empowering social media users and their families to make their own decisions and to control their experiences online.

Given our hands' on experience with these topics, we are more than happy to help explore solutions that achieve our shared goal of a safer, more accepting online environment for all youth. Please do not hesitate to reach me at [casey.pick@thetrevorproject.org](mailto:casey.pick@thetrevorproject.org) to discuss this topic further.

Sincerely,



Casey Pick  
Senior Director of Law & Policy  
The Trevor Project