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February 15, 2022

The Honorable Skyler Wheeler  
Judiciary Subcommittee  
Iowa House of Representatives  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Sandy Salmon  
Judiciary Subcommittee  
Iowa House of Representatives  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Beth Wessel-Kroeschell  
Judiciary Subcommittee  
Iowa House of Representatives  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

**RE: HF 2066 Device Filtering – TechNet Concerns, Oppose**

Chair Wheeler, Representative Salmon and Representative Wessel-Kroeschell:

I am writing on behalf of TechNet to share our perspective on HF 2066, which we must respectfully oppose because of its burdensome requirements that mobile devices have the ability to activate digital blocking capability within the geographic confines of the State of Iowa.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than four million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

TechNet members have empowered consumers with a variety of tools to customize their online experience. These tools include parental controls on streaming television services, as well as smartphone apps that help families manage their digital life across all connected devices, to empower families with options when it comes to content filtering. While we recognize this legislation as well-intentioned, content filtering will not advance the intent for public safety and protecting minors. Instead, we encourage you to work with the tech industry to leverage the use of cutting-edge technology to protect children online, as well as to educate consumers

about the tools at their disposal that will enable them to curate their family's online experience.

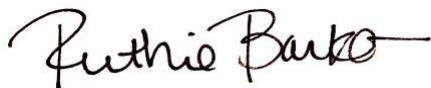
HF 2066 would have significant unintended consequences in Iowa. Products are not tailored to consumers living in a specific state, making it difficult or even impossible for certain products to have a filtering capacity in place as required in this bill. Furthermore, HF 2066 creates a web of compliance issues and uncertainty among product developers and software engineers. This legislation could thus limit the products and services available to Iowans. For these reasons among others, a large number of state legislatures throughout the country have repeatedly rejected device filter legislation.

There are already in existence and available to the consumer many commercial, as well as free, content filtering and blocking solutions available that enable consumers to protect their families and themselves from illegal or inappropriate content. These solutions are widely available as both integrated and independent solutions for a wide range of technologies. However, completely reliable identification, blocking, and filtering capabilities like the bill calls for are not technologically feasible and therefore compliance would not be possible with HF 2066. Further, the legislation would place device manufacturers in the role of deciding what content is obscene and whether it should be restricted. If a private company inadvertently blocked lawful content, the company could face backlash from website owners and users, including civil liability and monetary damages. The Courts, working closely with law enforcement, are the only lawful authority in the position to make these determinations.

Our companies are committed to online safety and many companies employ entire teams of specialists who work to identify, remove, and report illegal content. TechNet member companies partner with law enforcement, educational institutions, nonprofits, government agencies, and a wide range of organizations to provide consumer education to help protect children and adults from illegal and distasteful content on the internet. An educated consumer armed with technology is always the best protection against unwanted online interactions. For these reasons, we believe this bill is unnecessary.

Thank you for your engagement on this issue and for your commitment to public safety for Iowans. We strongly encourage you to not pass HF 2066.

Sincerely,



Ruthie Barko  
Executive Director, Colorado & the Central U.S  
TechNet