



Eli Huber, Kansas State Director
Heritage Action For America
February 7th, 2024

Proponent Testimony on SB 394

Chair Warren and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of Senate Bill 394. My name is Eli Huber and I represent Heritage Action for America, a grassroots organization with two million grassroots activists nationwide, including thousands of Kansans.

Heritage Action urges the Senate Committee on Judiciary to support SB 394.

SB 394 is a much needed step to protect children from the dangers of harmful online content such as pornography. This important legislation would protect children in Kansas by requiring websites with over 25 percent of “harmful content” to verify the age of individuals visiting their web pages.

Despite substantial evidence of the harmful impact of obscene content on adolescent mental health, both Congress and the Courts have failed to implement adequate measures to protect children from platforms that promote problematic content, such as pornography. As a result of the federal government's inaction, the responsibility to safeguard children falls upon the states.

Currently, pornographic material is readily accessible online. In fact, 80 percent of 12-17 year olds and 37 percent of children 9-11 years old have been exposed to sexually explicit material while online.¹ Adolescent exposure to harmful material is often linked to pornography addiction. This addiction can result in dire consequences including mental health issues like anxiety and depression, as well as increases in isolation, anger, and irritability.²

Requiring age verification is an effective and common-sense approach to protecting children from obscene content online. A recent poll showed 83 percent of Americans support age verification laws aimed at pornography.³ Currently, seven states have already passed age

¹ Chestnut Tutor, Annie “The Need for Federal Legislation Requiring Age Verification for Porn Websites” The Daily Signal (2023)

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/12/19/need-federal-legislation-requiring-age-verification-porn-websites/>

² Biello-Taylor, Amber “The Connection Between Pornography and Depression” Addiction Center (2024)

<https://www.addictioncenter.com/drugs/porn-addiction/depression/>

³ Movie Guide “Most Americans Want Age Verification on Porn Sites, Study Shows” (2023)

verification legislation similar to SB 394.⁴ Kansas has an opportunity to join those states by passing this important legislation.

We urge you to support SB 394.

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<https://www.movieguide.org/news-articles/most-americans-want-age-verification-on-porn-sites-study-shows.html>

⁴ Burgess, Becky "US State Law Comparisons for Adult Content" The Age Verification Providers Association (2023)

<https://avpassociation.com/us-state-law-comparisons-for-adult-content/>