



Eli Huber, Kansas State Director
Heritage Action For America
March 4th, 2024

Proponent Testimony on SB 394

Chair Humphries 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 House 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 “harmful content” on over 25 percent of web pages viewed in a month verify the age of individuals.

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 Kansas already requires the use of age verification

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)

technology for people participating in online sports gambling.⁴ As of 2023, seven states have already passed age verification legislation similar to SB 394.⁵

We urge you to support SB 394.

Thank you,

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

⁴ KS § 112-201-1 (b) 2023

⁵ 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/>