

April 6, 2026

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection  
1020 N Street, Room 162  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1700 (Lowenthal) – e-Safety Commission – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Bauer-Kahan,

On behalf of TechNet and the undersigned entities, we respectfully oppose AB 1700, which would establish an e-Safety Commission tasked with developing age compliance guidelines, reviewing age assurance technologies, and overseeing enforcement related to youth online protections.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of American innovation by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes more than 100 dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

We appreciate the author's focus on youth safety online and share the goal of ensuring that digital services are safe, age-appropriate, and responsibly designed. However, AB 1700 appears to be a work in progress, and we would welcome the opportunity to engage further with the author and Committee to better understand the intended scope, structure, and interaction of this proposal with existing law.

As drafted, the bill leaves several foundational questions unresolved, including how the proposed Commission would interact with existing regulatory frameworks, what specific authorities it would exercise, and how its guidelines would be implemented and enforced across a broad range of "covered entities." These open questions create uncertainty for stakeholders and raise concerns about duplicative or inconsistent regulatory approaches. Given the complexity and breadth of the issues involved, additional stakeholder engagement and development would help ensure that any framework is clear, targeted, and workable in practice.

We also note that California's existing legal framework already provides robust tools to address many of the concerns this bill seeks to target. Indeed, the California Attorney General has sponsored, overseen, and enforced many laws governing social media companies.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the CA AG's office has explicitly recognized that current

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-assemblymember-bauer-kahan-introduce-legislation-require#:~:text=Today's%20action%20does%20not%20stand,and%20hours%20on%20their%20platforms.>

laws—including those governing privacy, consumer protection, and civil rights—apply to artificial intelligence and related technologies.<sup>2</sup>

In this context, the creation of a new regulatory body risks introducing overlapping authority and uncertainty without clear evidence of a regulatory gap. To the extent there are specific harms that are not adequately addressed under current law, a more targeted approach may be more effective than establishing a broad, new governance structure.

We share the Legislature’s commitment to protecting young people online and believe that thoughtful, evidence-based policymaking is critical in this rapidly evolving area. We respectfully suggest that AB 1700 would benefit from further development and stakeholder input to ensure that it complements, rather than duplicates, California’s existing legal and regulatory framework.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose AB 1700 and look forward to continued engagement with the author and Committee.

If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Robert Boykin at [rboykin@technet.org](mailto:rboykin@technet.org) or 408.898.7145.

Sincerely,



Robert Boykin  
Executive Director for California and the Southwest  
TechNet

Ronak Daylami, California Chamber of Commerce  
Aodhan Downey, Computer and Communications Industry Association

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<sup>2</sup> <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-issues-legal-advisories-application-california-law-ai#:~:text=Moreover%2C%20many%20consumers%20and%20patients,may%20apply%20to%20their%20activities.>