Senate Commerce and Consumer Protections Committee

RE: Opposing SF 4696

April 28, 2026

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protections Committee

I’m reaching out today as a DFL activist and a member of Stonewall DFL to urge you to vote no on SF 4696. We all want our kids to be safe online, but this bill goes about it the wrong way and could end up hurting the very people it’s supposed to help. It reminds me too much of the early versions of federal bills that were called out by civil rights and LGBTQ+ groups for making it too easy for the government to censor people.

My biggest worry is how this bill handles "harmful content." In the past, "safety" has often been used as an excuse to target people who are different. This bill gives the state and private groups a way to sue over the "feeds" kids see. This is an open invitation for groups like the Alliance Defending Freedom to claim that any content supporting LGBTQ+ kids is "harmful." For a lot of queer and trans kids—especially those in homes or towns where they aren't accepted—these social media feeds are the only way they can find a community that understands them or get mental health help. If SF 4696 passes, those lifelines could disappear.

On top of that, the bill’s requirements for age checks are a privacy nightmare. Forcing kids to hand over personal info or go through "age estimation" just to use an app takes away the privacy they need to safely explore who they are. It also creates a huge barrier for families who might not have the right documents or tech to keep up with these checks. We should be looking for ways to protect privacy, not creating a system that tracks everyone’s digital footprint. Please protect our digital safe spaces and vote NO on SF 4696.

Respectfully,

Del D. Jenkins
Vice Chair CD6 DFL
Stonewall DFL