

April 27, 2026

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protections Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Opposition to SF 4696

The Legacy Coordination Network is committed to the economic advancement and professional empowerment of minority communities throughout Minnesota. Our work is centered on removing barriers to wealth creation and ensuring that our youth and entrepreneurs have the resources they need to compete in a rapidly evolving global economy. We are writing today to voice our firm opposition to SF 4696, as this legislation threatens to stifle the digital progress and professional discovery of the communities we serve.

While we recognize that SF 4696 is framed as a safety measure, its current framework presents significant hurdles for economic equity and digital privacy. For many minority youth, algorithmic discovery tools are not merely for entertainment; they are essential lifelines for finding community, specialized mentorship, and professional resources that may not be available in their immediate physical environments. By restricting "profile-based feeds," this bill risks disconnecting vulnerable young people from the very networks that foster their growth and sense of belonging.

Furthermore, the bill's mandates for age verification and estimation create a substantial threat to digital privacy and equity. These requirements force users to surrender sensitive personal data and strip away the anonymity that is often vital for youth in marginalized communities. This data-heavy approach creates an environment of constant surveillance and introduces barriers to entry that disproportionately affect families who lack the resources to navigate complex verification hurdles.

Innovation and economic mobility thrive on open access and the ability to find community online. The threat of massive financial penalties and private rights of action within SF 4696 will inevitably lead to "digital redlining," where tech providers may limit or withdraw services from Minnesota rather than risk catastrophic litigation. This outcome would further isolate our community from the global digital economy.

Instead of a restrictive framework that discourages participation and invites data breaches, we urge the Committee to pursue policies that focus on privacy-centric safety and digital literacy. We strongly urge the Committee to vote NO on SF 4696 to ensure that the doors of digital and economic opportunity remain open for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

The Legacy Coordination Network