

April 24, 2026

The Honorable Ron Latz, Chair
The Honorable Warren Limmer, Ranking Minority Member
& Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

RE: TechNet concerns with enforcement provisions in the delete-all amendment to SF 4997.

Dear Chair Latz, Senator Limmer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express TechNet's opposition to the delete-all amendment for SF 4997. We appreciate the Legislature's continued focus on protecting children online and, in particular, the amendments to the bill's enforcement framework to focus liability on reckless or knowing conduct. While this refinement is a meaningful improvement over earlier versions, the bill continues to raise significant concerns across a number of substantive areas. Recognizing the jurisdiction of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, we are limiting our comments to the bill's enforcement provisions.

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

The enforcement framework established in the delete-all amendment mirrors and, in some respects, exceeds the concerns TechNet has raised in similar legislation. In particular, pairing complex and evolving technical compliance obligations with broad private litigation exposure creates a framework that is likely to incentivize lawsuits rather than meaningfully advance child safety. The operational requirements underlying this bill—including age estimation, parental consent workflows, and product design limitations—are inherently probabilistic and context-dependent. Imposing sweeping liability on top of these obligations invites inconsistent judicial outcomes and second-guessing of good-faith compliance efforts.

The inclusion of statutory damages and fee-shifting provisions further amplifies this risk. These mechanisms can incentivize high-volume litigation, where financial exposure is driven less by demonstrable harm and more by technical or inadvertent violations. This dynamic diverts resources away from investment in safety tools and compliance systems and toward defensive legal strategies.

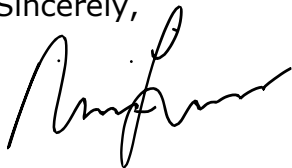
While the bill includes a “reasonable efforts” standard as a potential defense, this provision does not sufficiently mitigate the overall risk created by the private right of action. The lack of clear, objective compliance benchmarks leaves companies exposed to uncertainty and litigation even when acting in good faith. This is particularly problematic in a space involving rapidly evolving technologies and ongoing iteration of safety practices.

Enforcement of complex technology policy is more appropriately vested in experienced regulators who can exercise discretion, prioritize bad actors, and provide guidance as technologies evolve. A regulator-led approach is better suited to achieving the Legislature’s goals without creating an overly punitive and unpredictable litigation environment.

TechNet appreciates the opportunity to engage on this important issue and stands ready to work with the Committee on a more balanced enforcement framework. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose the enforcement provisions in the delete-all amendment to SF 4997 and will provide the Senate Commerce Committee with additional information on our overall concerns with the bill, as amended by the DE.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ninia Linero', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ninia Linero
Executive Director, Illinois & the Midwest
TechNet