



February 20, 2024

The Honorable Chair C.T. Wilson
Lowe House Office Building 231
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wilson and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Chamber of Progress, a tech industry coalition promoting technology's progressive future – I write to you to **oppose HB 772**, which would compromise user privacy for all Marylanders with cell phones, and censor access to important resources for at-risk teens.

HB 772 would harm the privacy of every user with a phone or tablet

One of the Chamber of Progress's top priorities is protecting online privacy. We support rules to prevent particularly sensitive data from being used in harmful ways, and we are staunch supporters of efforts to create comprehensive privacy protections. We also strongly support making the internet safe for young people.

As written, HB 772 would effectively require phone and tablet device manufacturers to employ a "qualifying age verification procedure" manufacturers would have to employ ID scan, biometric scan, etc - to avoid the civil or criminal penalties contemplated in HB 772.

As a result, companies would end up *gathering even more sensitive data* about every Marylander with a new phone or tablet. Moreover, many adult Marylanders reasonably would prefer not to share their identifying information with device manufacturers - creating an unpleasant dilemma for adult users: turn over sensitive personal data to use their phone, or forgo enjoyment of that device entirely.

Sincerely,

Alain Xiong-Calmes
Director of State & Local Public Policy