

"Good afternoon, everyone,

My name is David Arowolo, a 9th grader from Eastern Technical High School and an active member of the Baltimore County and Maryland Association of Student Councils. As a young teenager, my experiences with social media apps have been rather eventful, and from my experience, I believe this bill needs to be passed. Social media has become a strong and important part of our culture as high schoolers. It influences the choices young Americans like us make and the information they believe. With its huge impact on our culture, why is our government failing to properly take action in regulating it before it becomes more harmful than it has? The influence of social media on our generation cannot be overlooked, and Senate Bill 571 establishes a framework to ensure that companies responsibly handle children's information online.

Senate Bill 571 provides a significant step toward building a safer online environment for children by enforcing such procedures, as well as pushing companies to be more accountable in their handling of children's information. Senate Bill 571 strives to create vital standards for online products and services, with a focus on protecting children's information. The bill specifies key provisions to protect children's personal information, aiming to prevent organizations from abusing or exploiting their data. In addition, it creates clear consequences for businesses that fail to comply with these regulations, including the enforcement of fines.

Senate Bill 571 is a vital step in making the internet a safer space for my generation. It aims to establish the necessary regulations and checks to protect children from potential online harm, especially concerning their personal information. By voting to pass this bill into law, we can collectively ensure the safety and well-being of my generation and for some of you, your children in the digital world. Thank you."