

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY SENATORS MIZELL AND PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to support the #fixappratings initiative calling for accurate, third-party application (app) ratings and intuitive parental controls to better protect children from harmful online and mobile device content.

WHEREAS, millions of children use online and mobile devices daily; and

WHEREAS, parents rely on ratings to decide whether to allow their children to have access to apps available online and on mobile devices; and

WHEREAS, app developers currently self-rate their apps and display the ratings in app stores; and

WHEREAS, this rating system can be misleading, inconsistent, and does not appropriately warn parents of the potential dangers found in applications; and

WHEREAS, no third-party organization holds app developers accountable to ensure ratings are accurate and adequately explain the content and advertising available to children therein; and

WHEREAS, popular apps often do not include or have adequate parental controls; and

WHEREAS, apps can be hot spots for bullying, grooming, sex-trafficking, pornography, glamorized self-harm content, and the buying and selling of illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect children from such harm, parents seek adequate parental controls as well as the information necessary to determine if apps are appropriate for their children; and

WHEREAS, the #fixappratings initiative calls for the creation of an independent app ratings board and rating system that is clearly understood, enforced, trustworthy, and exists to protect the innocence of minors; and

WHEREAS, the #fixappratings initiative also calls for the release of intuitive parental controls to ensure that parents can effectively control their children's app activity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to support the #fixappratings initiative calling for the establishment of a third-party organization to assign app ratings and descriptions and the development of user-friendly parental controls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES