



**Statement from LGBT Tech on
the App Store Accountability Act (H.R. 10364)**

Please attribute the following statement to LGBT Tech.

The recently introduced “App Store Accountability Act” (H.R. 10364) proposes federal mandates for app stores and developers to verify the age of all users, secure parental consent for minors, and enforce transparency in app data collection and content classification. While the bill’s intent to protect minors online is commendable, its current structure raises serious concerns around privacy, access to information, and its disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.

For LGBTQ+ youth, the consequences can be especially troubling. The internet often serves as a vital resource for information and community support. Requiring parental consent for app downloads could inadvertently restrict access to essential resources, particularly for those who may not have supportive home environments. Such restrictions could exacerbate feelings of isolation and hinder access to affirming content, negatively impacting mental health and well-being.

We have long raised concerns about the unintended harms of age verification mandates, both generally and [when applied at the app store level](#). This bill would require the collection of sensitive personal information for all users, not just minors, to verify age and obtain parental consent. This requirement significantly increases the amount of private data platforms must collect and manage, creating unnecessary risks of misuse, surveillance, and breaches.

While safeguarding minors online is a vital goal we all share, it’s essential to balance protective measures with the preservation of privacy, access to information, and the rights of all users. This bill’s age verification and parental consent requirements risk doing more harm than good, particularly for LGBTQ+ youth who may lose access to affirming and essential digital resources. Privacy protections and access to information are not mutually exclusive. We urge lawmakers to ensure that efforts to enhance online safety do not come at the cost of digital autonomy and the well-being of those most in need of protection.