

Dear IMC-CAN Team Action recipient - Feel free to print/share this sheet with your action group and friends.

Oppose the Unconstitutional Social Media Ban!

Last week, the Massachusetts House advanced [H.5366](#), an amendment to a bill ([S.2581](#)), that would ban minors from social media and require everyone to go through ID verification before use, similar to the social media ban passed in Florida in 2024. There is no denying that social media can be harmful to people, including children and adults. However, requiring **everyone** to verify that they live in Massachusetts and are over the age of 16 before using **any** social media—which this bill defines it to include sites such as Substack and Wikipedia—is extreme.

Under this bill, every social media account will be linked to your real identity and can be subpoenaed and leaked. This bill also includes a parental surveillance provision requiring kids ages 14 to 15 to have a parent verify their ID.

Because this bill originated as amendments to the Senate school cell phone ban, it now moves to a “Conference Committee” to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate proposals, with members from both chambers. Let our legislators know that across-the-board bans on social media and mandated identity verification are not the solution!

[ACTION SUMMARY](#)

[SOURCES](#)

[ACTION DETAILS](#)

[BACKGROUND INFORMATION](#)

[BONUS ACTIONS](#)

[SOURCES](#)

[Fight for the Future](#)

[Act on Mass](#)

[ACTION DETAILS](#)

STEP ONE: Find your MA State Legislators' contact information [HERE](#).

STEP TWO: Call your MA State Senator and House Rep (see scripts below).

If leaving a voicemail: Please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied. (If you're shy...call after hours...staffers still must log the calls) Please personalize all the words in [blue](#).

For your call to your State Representative, you can see how they voted [HERE](#). This bill passed the House with 129 YEAs and 25 NAYs, so there is a high chance that the Representative you are calling voted for this bill.

Insert a thank you if your Rep voted no.

CALL SCRIPT

Hello, my name is [\[Your Name\]](#), and I live in [\[Your Town\]](#).

I'm calling to urge [Senator/Representative _____](#) to urge your colleagues who are appointed to the conference committee to reject the House amendments in H.5366 to the Senate's bill, S.2581, An Act to promote student learning and mental health.

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What began as a reasonable, bell-to-bell cellphone policy for students has been transformed into something far more sweeping and dangerous. The House amendments would impose broad age and ID verification requirements for access to websites and apps defined as “social media,” a definition so expansive it could include platforms like Wikipedia.

This is not a narrow student policy. It is a major change to how everyone in Massachusetts accesses the internet—and it was passed without a standalone bill, without a public hearing, and without meaningful public input.

We all support efforts to make online spaces safer for young people, but this approach creates serious privacy and free speech risks that have not been adequately considered.

- *It would require users to submit sensitive personal or biometric data just to access basic online platforms.*
- *It could expose vulnerable youth—especially LGBTQ+ youth—to harm by requiring parental consent in unsafe situations.*
- *And it mirrors repressive laws passed in states like Florida that have been tied up in court over constitutional concerns.*

This is a deeply flawed policy being rushed through the legislative process.

As this bill progresses in the legislature, I urge you to:

- *oppose and remove all age and ID verification provisions;*
- *communicate directly with your leadership to block these changes; and*
- *speak out publicly against including this language in the final bill.*

Massachusetts should lead on thoughtful, rights-respecting policy—not adopt sweeping internet restrictions without transparency or debate. [If your Rep voted no, insert: “Thank you for your courageous vote against this bill.”]

Thank you for your time and attention.

[Your Name]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State House of Representatives took the Senate’s bill, [S.2581](#), which focused primarily on limiting cellphone use in schools, and replaced its core text with a much broader amendment ([H.5366](#)). *Note that these amendments were listed as H.5349 before the final vote and a numeration change.*

In doing so, the House struck out the original Senate language and inserted entirely new provisions that expand the bill far beyond schools, adding statewide social media regulations, including age and ID verification requirements. This transformed a targeted education policy into a sweeping internet and platform regulation bill, which is now heading to a Conference Committee to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions.

This bill amounts to a broad ban on social media for children under 14 and requires them to verify their identity. This includes the use of Wikipedia, Substack, YouTube, Bluesky, Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, and others due to the broad wording of this bill.

There is no denying that social media can be harmful to people, kids, and adults, including. However, requiring everyone to verify that they live in Massachusetts and are over 16 before using social media is extreme. This bill shares much of its language with a repressive social media ban passed in Florida in 2024, **except the Massachusetts version goes further.**

The Florida bill passed in 2024 included the same social media ban, but without the age-verification or parental surveillance provisions. The MA bill also requires that 14 or 15-year-olds get parental consent before using social media. While this sounds reasonable enough on the surface, many children may not have a parental

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figure who is willing or able to allow them to use social media, such as foster kids or LGBTQ kids who aren't accepted by their family. By intensifying the Florida bill's provisions and requiring parental surveillance, these kids may be shut out in the cold.

Requiring ID verification is unsafe. Many of the services used to verify ID and age have been hacked in the past and can expose sensitive information, such as the 2019 Discord data breach, which leaked 70,000 IDs. Furthermore, the Trump administration is using these kinds of databases to go after activists. Recently, Trump demanded that Reddit reveal the identity of an individual who criticized ICE.

Had this bill been applicable, that individual could have been revealed for doing nothing other than exercising their free speech. Not only are ID verification laws dangerous to data security, but they can also be used to chill free speech. For this reason, many Massachusetts organizations, such as the ACLU of MA, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, the Queer Neighborhood Council, the Transgender Emergency Fund, and the EFF, oppose these policies.

Besides being extreme and unsafe, this bill was passed in the House without room for public scrutiny. This amendment was released last Monday, April 6th, with no warning. It was not filed as a bill in our legislature and had no public hearings before being passed two days later, on April 8th. Never mind the lack of public process; legislators had less than 48 hours to review the bill's text.

Resources:

[The State House Just Took A Blow Torch To Your Privacy](#), House Rep Erika Ueyterhoeven

[Massachusetts House Advances Unconstitutional Social Media Ban Bill that will harm LGBTQ youth and human rights](#)

[House passes alarming social media bill with no public process](#), Act On Mass, 4/11/26

[I voted No on the Social Media Bill and Winchester families deserve to know why](#)

BONUS ACTIONS

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