Does SB 1495 Help Parents and Kids?

SB 1495 imposes civil penalties of $1,000 per violation against social media or search engine platforms who collect or store a user under the age of 16’s data without parental consent.

While this sounds good, but SB 1495 has a lot of problems including:

- **SB 1495 would require companies to collect more data on teenagers.** To verify the age and residency of users, companies would have to collect data around date of birth and location that they may not otherwise collect. This is not just information on teenagers either, but on everyone — just to make sure there aren’t teenagers pretending to be adults.

- **SB 1495 would eliminate valuable options for teens and parents.** SB 1495 would eliminate the availability or raise the costs of many apps and services teens may use for educational opportunities or even to stay in touch with families. It also presumes a one size fits all approach in the relationship between parents and teenagers. Fortunately, The market already offers a variety of parental controls like those listed in SB 1495 but lets parents choose the appropriate ways to monitor their teen’s use of technology and the internet.

- **SB 1495 creates a false sense of security for parents.** Parents across the state struggle with the challenge of raising their teens. But this law is essentially telling parents, “don’t worry, don’t be vigilant, the law tells you what your teen is doing online.” This will result in a false sense of security for parents and could mean they are not doing the important role of teaching their teens how to safely and properly engage online.

- **SB 1495 is preempted by existing federal law.** The federal Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) says state and local governments cannot impose additional liability on top of COPPA’s provisions if they impact interstate commerce. SB 1495 goes past Arizona’s borders and is preempted.

Oppose SB 1495