

**NetChoice** *Promoting Convenience, Choice, and Commerce on the Net*

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Hon. Joseph M. McNamara  
Chairperson, House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare  
82 Smith Street  
Providence RI 02903

April 30, 2014

***RE: H 8052, An Act Relating To Education - Student Data-Cloud Computing***

Dear Chairman McNamara:

We agree with the protection of student's privacy, but we worry that this bill would constrain the tools teachers and parents use to help students, make it harder to identify students that pose a threat to themselves and others, and limit these services from innovating.

H 8052 forbids online services from analyzing the information this receives. On its face, this makes sense. But after looking at the impact, this is the wrong approach for Rhode Island students.

***Limiting tools for teachers and parents***

H 8052 would forbid online services from identifying students who are struggling academically. This includes:

- English teachers learning that half the students use "insure" when they should use "ensure."
- Math teachers identifying that most of the students misunderstand algebraic order of operations.
- High School teachers identifying plagiarism.

***Make it harder to identify students that pose a threat to themselves and others***

These services could alert parent and teachers if they see threatening words in a student email or post – stopping a problem before it starts.

***Limit these services from innovating***

Under H 8052, online service providers can't analyze how students use their programs making it harder to better tailor tools to the way students use them.

We agree with the desire to keep our students safe and secure. However, H 8052 results in a reduction in educational tools at a time when our states need them most, our limits our ability identify troubled students.

Thank you for considering our views. Please let me know if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carl Szabo'.

Carl Szabo  
Policy Counsel, NetChoice

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