



March 6, 2020

Honorable Curtis S. Bramble, Chair
Utah Senate Business and Labor Standing Committee
Utah Senate
350 North State, Suite 320
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Chair Bramble and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write in opposition to SB 243, which requires that retailers of internet-enabled devices activate a technology protection measure, or digital blocking tool. Although well intentioned, CTIA believes the bill is not necessary and is unworkable.

The wireless industry is committed to providing resources to help families use technology safely and responsibly. As part of these efforts, wireless providers, and many device manufacturers, already offer tools to customers to help manage their mobile experience. Providers offer content filtering technology that works on smartphones, tablets, and computers, helping adults and children make positive digital choices everywhere they browse.

The wireless industry understands the concerns raised in the bill and has addressed this through its offering of parental controls and filtering capabilities for customers. For example, *AT&T SECURE FAMILY* allows families to filter content.¹ Verizon offers *Verizon Smart Family*, a service that monitors wireless activities, sets usage limits and includes the ability to block unwanted contacts, apps and inappropriate web content.² *Mobihip Safe Browser* replaces the default browser on a child's device, enabling parents to block website content on smartphones, tablets and computers.³ T-Mobile offers *T-Mobile FamilyMode*, an all-in-one solution that allows management and control of online activities.⁴ Sprint offers content

¹ <https://www.att.com/features/secure-family-app/>, last accessed 3/5/20.

² <https://www.verizonwireless.com/support/verizon-smart-family-faqs/>, last accessed 3/5/20.

³ <https://www.mobicip.com/>, last accessed 3/5/20

⁴ <https://www.t-mobile.com/offers/t-mobile-family-mode>, last accessed 3/5/20.



filtering against adult content and malware while browsing the web on the Sprint network.⁵ Additionally, many manufacturers offer content blocking capabilities within the functionality of the device itself, and consumers can download applications.⁶

Additionally, CTIA created “Growing Wireless,” which provides industry-backed tools and resources for parents of connected children. The program provides information regarding parental control features, parent guides and additional resources for safe mobile device usage. You can find more information at www.ctia.org/about-ctia/programs/growing-wireless.

This legislation would complicate how wireless carriers and retailers interact with their consumers by setting burdensome requirements on customer transactions at the point of sale. Additionally, wireless carriers provide services to customers on a nationwide basis; bills such as this would create a patchwork of regulation across the country, the cost of which would be borne by all customers, including those in Utah.

The most effective approach for states, companies and other stakeholders is to work together to educate consumers about the tools that are available to them, especially as technology is constantly evolving. Instead of creating mandates on device sellers, this bill could instead provide funding for non-profits to hold digital literacy training or for the Attorney General to create a website showcasing the resources that are available to consumers.

The wireless industry takes the issue of child safety seriously by offering tools with the capability to block content and will continue to do so. Thus, CTIA urges you not to move this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Volpe McCabe
Director, State Legislative Affairs

⁵ https://www.sprint.com/en/support/solutions/device/faqs-about-parental-controls-using-content-filters.html?id16=filtering%20%7CALL&question_box=filtering%20%7, last accessed 3/5/20.

⁶ <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304>, last accessed 3/5/20.