February 10, 2021

Rep. Carl R. Albrecht, Chair
Rep. Rex P. Shipp, Vice Chair
Utah House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Standing Committee

Re: Opposition to HB0072S01

Dear Chair Albrecht, Vice Chair Shipp and Committee Members:

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to you in opposition to HB72, which sets state mandates regarding content filtering technology on internet-accessible products.

Although well intentioned, this bill is not necessary and is unworkable from a technical and practical perspective. The wireless industry offers products and services to consumers on a nationwide and even worldwide basis, setting state-specific requirements on devices would be unfeasible.

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. Many manufacturers offer content blocking capabilities within the functionality of the device itself, and consumers can download applications.

CTIA created “Growing Wireless,” a website that 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. More information at www.ctia.org/about-ctia/playbooks/growing-wireless.

The mandates in HB 72 would complicate how retailers interact with their consumers by setting burdensome requirements on customer transactions at the point of sale.

HB 72 sets technically infeasible requirements on determining how these mandates would work in practice with the use of applications or within the broad universe of content, from books and movies to music and video, with respect to setting filters.

Instead of a mandating requirements regarding filters, 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.
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. CTIA respectfully urges you not to move HB72.

Sincerely,

Lisa V. McCabe
Director, State Legislative Affairs