

TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RI
RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 7632
RELATING TO AGE-APPROPRIATE DESIGN CODE

WHEREAS, Rhode Island House Bill 7632 (HB 7632), known as the Age-Appropriate Design Code, seeks to regulate online services that are reasonably likely to be accessed by children; and

WHEREAS, the bill includes a provision prohibiting covered online services from allowing a known child's parent or guardian to monitor the child's online activity or track the child's location unless the child receives a "conspicuous signal" that such monitoring is taking place; and

WHEREAS, this provision would significantly restrict a parent or guardian's ability to exercise their fundamental responsibility to safeguard their child's wellbeing, particularly in situations involving online exploitation, grooming, cyberbullying, or other digital threats that often rely on secrecy to persist; and

WHEREAS, children—especially younger minors—may not fully understand the risks associated with online interactions, nor possess the maturity to consent meaningfully to the disclosure of parental monitoring; and

WHEREAS, requiring a conspicuous signal that monitoring is occurring may unintentionally alert potential bad actors who have gained access to a child's device or accounts, thereby undermining the protective purpose of parental oversight; and

WHEREAS, parents and guardians are legally and morally responsible for the safety of their children, and state policy should not impede their ability to fulfill that duty; and

WHEREAS, the bill's monitoring-notification requirement may conflict with existing child-protection practices, including those recommended by law enforcement, child-safety organizations, and cybersecurity experts, who emphasize discreet parental supervision as a critical tool for preventing harm; and

WHEREAS, the bill risks creating legal uncertainty for parents, educators, and service providers by imposing ambiguous obligations that could discourage the use of widely accepted parental-control tools; and

WHEREAS, while the goal of protecting children online is essential and widely supported, HB 7632's approach may unintentionally weaken child safety rather than strengthen it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned expresses strong opposition to Rhode Island HB 7632 in its current form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any legislation addressing children's online safety should affirm and preserve the ability of parents and guardians to monitor their children's digital activity without mandatory disclosure that could compromise protective efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that lawmakers are urged to revise HB 7632 to ensure that child-safety measures empower families, align with best practices in digital protection, and avoid creating barriers to effective parental oversight; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the members of the Rhode Island General Assembly as a formal expression of opposition to HB 7632 and a call for more balanced, parent-affirming child-safety legislation.

The **RESOLUTION** shall take effect upon passage.

Passed as a resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council this 1st day of June, 2026.


Michael James Geary, President
Hopkinton Town Council

ATTEST: Marita D. Murray
Marita D. Murray, Town Clerk

