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March 17, 2025

Senator Anne Carney, Chair
Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: L.D. 844, *An Act to Regulate Social Media Use by Minors Under 16 Years of Age*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to provide testimony neither for nor against L.D. 844, *An Act to Regulate Social Media Use by Minors Under 16 Years of Age*. If enacted, L.D. 844 would require age verification on social media platforms, prohibit social media companies from allowing minors under 14 years of age to maintain accounts on their platforms, and require social media companies to obtain express parental consent for minors who are 14 or 15 years of age to have accounts on their platforms. The bill additionally provides my office with enforcement and rulemaking authority.

I broadly support legislative efforts like L.D. 844 that are aimed at addressing the serious harms that can result from social media use by minors, and I believe that parental consent should be required for younger users of social media. However, L.D. 844's age verification and parental consent requirements, as drafted, may not adequately mitigate risks relating to user privacy and data security. Moreover, L.D. 844 does not address the use of minors' personal data

by social media platforms, which should be an important component of any legislative effort to regulate social media use by minors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Aaron M. Frey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.