

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR HENRY SANTANA



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION
THAT WOULD CENSOR OR RESTRICT
LIFESAVING ONLINE RESOURCES FOR 2SLGBTQIA+
COMMUNITIES AND OTHER MARGINALIZED GROUPS**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston values and affirms the dignity, rights, and safety of LGBTQIA+ residents and all marginalized communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Online spaces and resources are essential lifelines for queer and trans youth, survivors of abuse, people seeking reproductive health care, and other vulnerable individuals, providing information, community, and support that may not otherwise be accessible; *and*

WHEREAS, Proposed legislation at the federal and state levels, including the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), age verification requirements such as the SCREEN Act and the App Store Accountability Act, and attacks on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, would severely limit access to these vital online resources; *and*

WHEREAS, KOSA, if enacted, could grant future presidential administrations, including those hostile to LGBTQIA+ rights, sweeping authority to censor LGBTQIA+ content under the guise of protecting minors, despite the opposition of hundreds of parents of transgender children, including more than one hundred from Massachusetts; *and*

WHEREAS, Mandatory age verification laws would require Internet users to upload government identification or submit to invasive biometric scans, creating barriers to access, undermining privacy, and disproportionately harming marginalized communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Weakening or repealing Section 230 would enable states with extreme anti-LGBTQIA+ or anti-reproductive rights laws to criminalize access to online content about abortion, gender-affirming care, and other constitutionally protected information and sever connections local Boston LGBTQIA+ individuals hold with the larger LGBTQIA+ community as online forums and exchanges are censored by tech companies; *and*

WHEREAS, Weakening or repealing Section 230 would enable states with extreme anti-LGBTQIA+ or anti-reproductive rights laws to criminalize access to online content about abortion, gender-affirming care, and other constitutionally protected information and sever connections local Boston LGBTQIA+ individuals hold with the larger LGBTQIA+ community as online forums and exchanges are censored by tech companies; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston supports efforts to hold Big Tech accountable through legislation that targets harmful business practices without infringing upon free expression or the rights of marginalized communities, such as the Algorithmic Justice and Transparency Act, the Safe Sex Worker Study Act, the Ban Surveillance Advertising Act, the Open App Markets Act, the American Innovation and Choice Online Act, and the My Body My Data Act; *and*

WHEREAS, The City recognizes that protecting digital freedom is integral to safeguarding civil rights, ensuring equitable access to information, and promoting the well-being of all residents. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the City Council of Boston formally opposes the Kids Online Safety Act, the SCREEN Act, the App Store Accountability Act, any legislation requiring invasive age verification for Internet access, and any attempt to weaken or repeal Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the City Council calls upon members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation and the Governor to publicly oppose these harmful bills as they stand and instead to work with the community to create and advance legislation that holds Big Tech accountable while protecting online free expression, privacy, and access to lifesaving resources; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the Massachusetts congressional delegation, the Governor, and the coalition of Massachusetts-based organizations opposing digital censorship.

Filed in Council: May 13, 2026