

57 WHEREAS, recent studies indicate that excessive use of social media, particularly in
58 young girls, can lead to an increase in depressive symptoms;

59 WHEREAS, suicide rates, depression, and mental health issues among adolescents in
60 the United States have been found to increase as social media use has surged within the same
61 age group;

62 ~~§→ [WHEREAS, many providers and users of interactive computer services covered by the
63 Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. Sec. 230 et seq., as amended through February 8,
64 1996, have failed to comply with basic best business practices in connection with the
65 protection of minors from harmful content, therefore instigating interest in a review of the
66 status of such providers and users under 47 U.S.C. Sec. 230 unless the business practices of
67 such providers and users come into alignment with reasonable care and best business practices
68 of such providers and users appropriate for protecting minors;] ←§~~

69 WHEREAS, popular applications often do not include parental controls or have
70 inadequate parental controls;

71 WHEREAS, the parental controls provided on internet-ready devices are often
72 insufficient, ignore the age of users, contain loopholes, and are difficult to implement, leaving
73 minors unprotected from sexual abuse and exploitation; and

74 WHEREAS, the improper use of internet-ready devices during school hours contributes
75 to student distraction and lower test scores and the use of such devices during bedtime hours
76 can lead to sleep disturbance:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah:

78 (1) calls on the United States Congress to recommend that vendors and distributors of
79 applications establish an independent application ratings board, comprised of industry
80 representatives, child development, child protection, and internet safety subject matter experts
81 to:

82 (a) establish new criteria for what types of application content and in-application risks
83 result in specified age-appropriate application ratings;

84 (b) review application ratings and descriptions of the most downloaded applications
85 and the downloadable content of those applications; and

86 (c) impose sanctions for noncompliance; and

87 (2) calls on leading technology companies to: