



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER  
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton  
512 Blatt Building  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Newton:

I have signed into law R-100, H. 3431, which amends the South Carolina Code of Laws to provide parents with critical tools to protect their children from the harmful effects of excessive social media use and their children's privacy online.

The internet has brought many significant benefits to society, but it has also wrought great harm on people, particularly our children. We therefore have consistently sought to protect children from the harms that come from the internet, whether from cyberbullying, sextortion, or excessive use. This legislation gives parents more resources to ensure their children are safer on the internet by, for example, disabling certain features or limiting how often certain online services may be accessed. H. 3431 also requires covered online services to take reasonable care in how they use children's personal data and how they design and operate their sites to eliminate harms that frequently befall children when they use these sites too much. Unlike laws in which the government seeks to restrict certain types of speech, H. 3431 is content neutral and gives parents—not the government—the authority to make decisions for their children. No law will eliminate every threat our children face online, but I am confident that H. 3431 provides important tools for parents in the ongoing fight to protect our children.

For the foregoing reasons, I have signed H. 3431 into law. I look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to provide parents the tools they need to protect their children as they deem best.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Henry Dargan McMaster".

Henry Dargan McMaster

HDM/wgl