



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

TechNet Northeast | 774.230.6685
Boston, MA 02108
www.technet.org

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Jacquelyn Baginski, Chair
House Innovation, Internet and Technology Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 5176 – Student Computer Device Privacy

Dear Chair Baginski and members of the Committee:

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on HB 5561, which would prohibit an educational institution from accessing certain data on a student's device.

TechNet member companies have raised some operational questions about the legislation. The inclusion of personal devices complicates matters, as it's unclear how a third party providing services would be able to infer if the personal device is being used for educational purposes and is therefore subject to the provisions of the bill. Particularly as "educational purpose" is not defined.

We also seek clarity on the terms "activate or access". For example, would routine logging and debugging features be permitted?

TechNet's members support the concept of protecting students from unauthorized or unwarranted access to their devices. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide recommendations to address some of these operational challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gilrein".

Christopher Gilrein
Executive Director, Northeast
TechNet
cgilrein@technet.org