



July 15, 2026

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: A.B. 1856 – Removal of Opposition (as amended July 1)

Dear Chair Cervantes:

I write today on behalf of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based, non-profit organization that works to protect civil liberties in the digital age. EFF represents more than 32,000 individual active donors and members, including thousands of people in California. EFF writes to formally remove our opposition to A.B. 1856 (Wicks) following the bill's recent amendments in the Senate Privacy and Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection committee.

We are grateful to Assemblymember Wicks, her staff, and the committee staff for working in good faith to address the serious civil liberties and technical concerns that EFF and others raised. By striking the language that would have forced web browsers and websites to adopt the age-signaling framework created by A.B. 1043 (2025), the author successfully prevented a massive expansion of the privacy and security risks that plague the underlying law before its taken effect or has been tested in courts. This critical change, alongside the preserved exemption for open-source developers, resolves our primary objections to the bill.

EFF continues to have fundamental concerns regarding the constitutionality, privacy, and security risks of the underlying law established by last year's A.B. 1043. No one should have to provide or verify their age to access the internet. That said, we appreciate that the legislature has chosen to address some of the harms, rather than compound the risks created by A.B. 1043.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and we thank the author and committee staff for their collaborative effort to protect user privacy and speech.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rin', is positioned above the typed name.

Rindala “Rin” Alajaji
Associate Director of State Affairs
Electronic Frontier Foundation

cc: The Honorable Buffy Wicks; Honorable Members and Committee Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee.