Honorable Members of the Committee On Education,

Good day. I am a Technology Coordinator for a small, rural school district in Southern Oregon. I am the only tech in the district, so my experience is broad in dealing with educational hardware and software.

I oppose SB594.

There are several laws school districts must follow, which address student privacy and technology in effective ways:

Oregon Student Information Protection Act: Oregon Student Information Protection Act (OSIPA) The OSIPA prohibits online education sites, services, and applications from compiling, sharing, or disclosing K-12 student information for any purpose other than educational purposes. (https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/rules/rulemaking-regulatory-reform-proceedings/childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule)

COPPA - Children's Online Privacy Protection Act - "COPPA imposes certain requirements on operators of websites or online services directed to children under 13 years of age, and on operators of other websites or online services that have actual knowledge that they are collecting personal information online from a child under 13 years of age."(https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/rules/rulemaking-regulatory-reform-proceedings/childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule)

FERPA also protects some student data, "The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education."(https://www2.ed.gov/ferpa#:~:text=The%20Family%20Educational%20Rights%20and,privacy%20of%20student%20education%20records.&text=Parents%20or%20eligible%20students%20have%20the%20right%20to%20request%20that,to%20be%20inaccurate%20or%20misleading.)

These are laws which we follow ad base decisions about software we provide for student use. Software must conform to these laws to be used in our district. We take our students privacy seriously and with mostly a hands-off approach we provide our students with devices, programs and Internet access for educational purposes.

We also receive tens of thousands of dollars from ERate, which makes this connectivity for our students possible. ERate is a federal program, which "Public or private schools (K-12), libraries, and groups of schools and libraries (e.g., consortia, districts, systems) can apply for discounts on eligible services."(https://www.usac.org/e-rate/) ERate requires us to keep students safe from pictures that are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors. Additionally, "Schools subject to CIPA have two additional certification requirements: 1) their Internet safety policies must include monitoring the online activities of minors; and 2) as required by the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, they must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response." (https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act)

The result of this is that we are alerted if students are going to sites that violate CIPA so that we can prevent it from happening again through educating students about harmful sites. We are also alerted to student email about self-harm or violence through a monitoring program that finds pornographic images and other categories of content, "harmful to students." If we are unable to comply with this provision of CIPA, we will be in violation of a federal law and we will be unable to provide Internet access for our students. Also, the 90% ERate discount on our monthly bill of $3000. would disappear.

If there is a specific program or class of programs, those need to be discussed and real legislation to prevent harm to students needs to be crafted.