

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.15

Reps. Frederick and Calley offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to encourage technology companies and
2 application developers to establish a third-party organization to
3 assign application software ratings and descriptions and impose
4 sanctions for noncompliance.

5 Whereas, Millions of children have to access cellular phones
6 and tablets on a daily basis; and

7 Whereas, Popular applications (apps) developed for use on
8 these electronic devices often include content that is not suitable
9 for the age groups to which they are marketed; and

10 Whereas, Age ratings and descriptions for apps are the
11 responsibility of the app developer with no oversight to ensure
12 that ratings and descriptions are accurate. No third-party
13 organization has been created to review app ratings or impose



1 sanctions for noncompliance related to app content; and

2 Whereas, Children may be exposed to inappropriate content or
3 privacy issues through the use of some apps. Apps aimed at children
4 may collect and share personal information, let children spend real
5 money, and link to social media. These apps often have inadequate
6 or difficult-to-find parental controls; and

7 Whereas, A third-party organization comprised of experts in
8 child development, child protection, and internet safety should be
9 vested with authority to assign app ratings and descriptions and
10 impose sanctions for noncompliance. Such a board could operate in a
11 manner similar to the Entertainment Software Ratings Board and
12 Motion Picture Association of America, which rate video games and
13 films, respectively; now, therefore, be it

14 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
15 concurring), That we encourage technology companies and application
16 developers to establish a third-party organization to assign
17 application software ratings and descriptions and impose sanctions
18 for noncompliance.