

I appreciate you allowing us to weigh in on the new Online Safety Act. I have no problem with being able to take down stolen images or cyber bullying. That stuff is great.

Unfortunately parts of the bill seem to discriminate against Sex Workers. X 18+ is already in place for sexual content. There are a myriad ways parents can block anything deemed harmful. It shouldn't be up to an individual who has no accountability to arbitrarily take down anything they just don't like. Not to mention all the ratings below X18+ (R18+ on down) allow graphic violence to be watched on those platforms. Sex is in no way as damaging as hardcore violence could be so why is it being treated as if it is. It is unreasonable and unjust to arbitrarily pick which content is deemed "inappropriate". That's up to the viewer.

Sex work is a largely lawful profession. It's the oldest profession. As it's evolved it's gone from magazines and the back of the paper to the internet. I am friends with some sex workers and if it hadn't been for their ability to advertise on the internet during covid I'd hate to think what would have happened. They are advertising their business. Their lawful business. Being able to shut them down without oversight could be incredibly damaging to the people who work in the industry and it upsets me greatly seeing them worry about whether their ads will just vanish one day without a trace of explanation. This feels like discrimination and it's disgraceful. Would you just stop other businesses from putting ads up? Then why do it here? There's not logical reason why things are going this way. It's ridiculous.

All the workers I know take great care in not letting anyone underage see their work with paywalls and age restrictions. They aren't trying to do anything but support themselves and their business. Instead of just pushing this the sex work community should be brought into the discussion. If there are any problems discuss them. It helps nobody to suddenly shut down someone's online presence. Suddenly they'd be getting no income to survive. How does that help anyone? Please work with them. They have unions. It's not a tough thing to do. They are

good people. Compassionate people. They don't deserve to be put through this. They need those spaces for their health, economies and their safety. If they can't keep in contact with their support systems online what are they supposed to do. Please reconsider this bill. Don't hurt a bunch of amazing people who for the most part just want to help others. You'll also be hurting their clients. There are a great many people who meet with workers just to talk and have someone in their lives. They're really amazing and they need to be able to advertise for their work and for their health and safety and just so they can survive these tough times we're going through. I know I'm repeating myself but I take this situation seriously and to heart. Talk to them. If something needs to change, engage with the sex worker community. Don't just arbitrarily shut them down leaving them with no way to live day to day. It just doesn't make any sense.

Thank you for taking the time.