

██████████ I am an online content creator who celebrates the body in my work. I use Instagram, Twitter and Reddit to post my art and find customers. The internet has been an amazing way for me to find community, and generate income for myself, especially during this pandemic. Because of Covid I paused my degree, and the internet has been the only way for me to stay in contact with my friends and network.

This bill threatens my ability to earn an income and share my art in a way that is accessible to a wide audience. When I am deplatformed or my posts are deleted, I lose customers and I feel pushed out of a place where I have found acceptance and support.

My mental health has worsened recently due to my day job heavily cutting my hours, to be further isolated and lose even more of my income would leave me extremely vulnerable. I am scared to think of how I would cope with it.

Most social media sites already have ambiguous terms and rules for what is appropriate content to post, which I try to follow. When they are worded so vaguely though, I have found my work taken down, or my account restricted for posts that I thought would be ok. This often happens due to an algorithm flagging certain words I may use, such as "link in bio", or any mention of the word sex. This makes it really hard for me to link to my personal blog, or store, and has led to posts where I'm talking about my gender diversity being silenced. Neither of these things are bad or hurting people, but I am punished for it.

This is especially disheartening when celebrities can post half naked pictures with no consequences. But what is truly concerning is how nudity and references to sexuality are so heavily scrutinised, while accounts that post racism, hate speech and threaten people are allowed to exist, even after multiple reports. It hurts to know that accounts that have harassed me are given more protection than I am.

I post a lot of my art under a fake name, for my safety and privacy. Having an "alter ego" gives me freedom to explore different areas of my art, and it isn't necessary for me to identify myself to anyone if I don't want to. Having to give my legal name to make a complaint about my work being stolen, or to be able to post my work as normal, removes this basic protection that other artists and internet users are afforded. If I was forced to identify myself I would be less likely to access the services this bill introduces that could help me.

There are many more things I could add to this submission, but I hope this small look into my life has raised some concerns for how this bill could cause more harm than good. I am happy that I am able to tell my story to hopefully improve this bill, but bills should be made with the input of the people it will affect, not rectified by them after they have been written.