



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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October 12, 2021

The Honorable Gram Filler, Chair  
Michigan House Judiciary Committee  
Anderson House Office Building  
N-1197 House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48933

**Re: HB 5368**

Dear Chairman Filler and members of the Committee:

On behalf of our membership, TechNet respectfully submits comments in support of HB 5368, a bill that would require court records be open to the public and include names and Date of Birth (DOB).

*TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over four million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Albany, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Olympia, Sacramento, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.*

This is a simple bill that would maintain the status quo of what has already been occurring in the State of Michigan. Recently, the Michigan Supreme Court adopted administrative rules that would allow them to redact date of birth from official records. Originally these rules were supposed to go into effect Jan 1, 2021. However, has now been delayed until January 1, 2022.

On behalf of many internet-based companies that depend on background checks and screening processes as a way of onboarding workers, there's a risk that online platforms rely on background checks will become less safe without this legislation. This is highly concerning to populations that use rideshare and delivery, which has significantly expanded during the pandemic.

If DOB is redacted from court documents, screening process will be missing a key piece of information for confirming an individual's identity, thereby creating confusion, and causing potentially harmful errors, especially with individuals who

share the same name. These rules could also jeopardize an individual's ability to work on the platform, and reduce earning opportunities for Michiganders.

Not to mention, many companies are required to conduct background checks by law. For example, Michigan law requires Transportation Network Companies (TNC) to perform background checks on TNC driver candidates. DOB is also needed to accurately match up public records to the right individuals for out online law enforcement databases, insurance databases, and identity verification and authentication.

The availability of timely and accurate criminal history information helps our member companies protect both consumers and their customers by ensuring a safe working environment by reducing the likelihood of workplace violence.

For the reasons stated above, we encourage the Committee to favorably approve this legislation. If myself or my members can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at [tdiers@technet.org](mailto:tdiers@technet.org) or at 630-400-3439.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Diers', written in a cursive style.

Tyler Diers  
Executive Director, Midwest  
TechNet

Cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee