

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Matthew Frumin
Chair
Committee on Human Services
District of Columbia Council
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 408, NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: B26-0490 (Frumin) - Library E-book Pricing Fairness Amendment Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Frumin and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share comments on B26-0490, the Library E-book Pricing Fairness Amendment Act of 2025.

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 105 dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

State legislatures, local jurisdictions, and courts across the country have reacted in different manners to the rise of new technologies and increased opportunities for people to provide goods and services. Any new legal or regulatory requirements should be tailored to the product and associated industry, directly tied to an identified harm, limited to gaps in existing coverage, focused on bad actors, and narrowly tailored to avoid conflicts or discrepancies in the law and unintended consequences. One-size-fits-all approaches must be avoided given the variety of industries, different technology models, and varied reasons why people seek or provide services.

Libraries play a vital role in communities by providing access to books, educational materials, and computer and internet access. We recognize this role and the financial hurdles library systems face; however, we oppose this bill for several reasons.

B26-0490 would place limits on the contracts library systems may enter into with publishers regarding restrictions on the number of times the library may loan

electronic literary materials over the course of the contract, and the licenses the library may purchase on the same date electronic literary materials are made available for purchase by the public. Restricting these contracts will not lead to increased access to e-books and other materials at a lower price, but rather publishers potentially ceasing contracts with library systems altogether. Ultimately, this restricts access to library materials for District residents.

The publishing industry is competitive and, for the most part, provides small margins for authors. Current copyright laws give owners the right to determine when and how their work will be distributed. B26-0490 will stifle competition and creativity, as well as potentially violate the U.S. Copyright Act.

We remain concerned about this legislation that regulates specific technologies based on unknown impacts to a consumer. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. We look forward to continuing these conversations with you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Durkin

Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic