

December 3, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the 174 undersigned national, state, and local organizations invested in the safety and wellbeing of our nation's children, adolescents, and families, **we write urging you to include the strongest version of the *Kids Online Safety Act* in your end of year package.** As leadership is aware, the legislation advanced out of the U.S. Senate in a historic 91-3 vote and out of the Committee on Energy & Commerce within the U.S. House of Representatives by voice vote earlier this year.

Since the legislation's first introduction in February 2022, the mental health crisis among youth has remained dire. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the 2023 findings from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) showing approximately [40% of students](#) experienced persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness, 30% experienced poor mental health, and 20% seriously considered attempting suicide. For the first time in the history of the YRBS, the CDC included assessing U.S. high school students' frequency of social media use and found [77% of students](#) report using social media at least several times a day. Students who reported frequent social media use were more likely to be bullied at school and electronically, report persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness, and consider attempting suicide and having made a suicide plan.

As of 2021, over [40% of children](#) aged 8 to 12 have a smartphone and 18% of children aged 8 to 12 report using social media every day. Numerous hearings and [abundant research findings](#) have made the evidence clear regarding the potential harms social media platforms can have on the brain development and mental health of our nation's youth, including hazardous substance use, eating disorders, cyberbullying, sexual exploitation, and suicidal behaviors. Forty-two states and Washington, D.C. have now taken action by [filing lawsuits against](#) social media companies by using their own research against them. It is past time for the U.S. Congress to join this fight and advance the *Kids Online Safety Act* into law.

The strong, bipartisan legislation would finally hold social media companies accountable after their repeated failures to protect children and adolescents from the design features and functions that make their platforms harmful. The legislation provides federal protection for minors against mental health harms, sexual exploitation and trafficking, financial harms, cyberbullying, and illegal products. Additionally, the bill requires companies to go through independent, external audits, and creates substantial youth and parental controls to create a safer digital environment for children and adolescents.

We thank you again for your leadership to protect both today's children, adolescents, and generations of kids to come and urge final passage of a strong *Kids Online Safety Act* this year.

Sincerely,

National

3Strands Global Foundation

Academy for Eating Disorders

Accountable Tech

Active Minds

AFT, American Federation of Teachers

All Girls Allowed, Inc.

Alternative Solutions

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Counseling Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Psychological Association

American Youth Association

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Augusta Associates LLC

Berkeley Media Studies Group

Cambridge Eating Disorder Center

Carly Ryan Foundation

Center for Digital Democracy

Center for Humane Technology

Center for Online Safety

Chasing Hope Foundation

Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development

Children's Justice Fund

Clinical Social Work Association

Common Sense Media

Design It For Us

Early Childhood Work Group, Screen Time Action Network @Fairplay

Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action

Educate and Empower Kids

Encode Justice

Enough Is Enough

Erik's Cause

Fairplay

Global Hope 365

IFEDD, The International Federation of Eating Disorder Dietitians

Issue One

Legacy of Hope International

Lynn's Warriors

MAMA - Mothers Against Media Addiction

Mental Health America

Middle Mental Health

National Alliance for Eating Disorders

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders

National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)

National Eating Disorders Association

National Federation of Families

National League for Nursing

NoSo November

Parents Television and Media Council

Parents Who Fight

ParentsSOS

ParentsTogether Action

Phone-Free Schools Movement

Project STAND

Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT)

Protect Young Eyes

REDC Consortium

ReThink

Rights4Girls

Sacred Stewardship

Sandy Hook Promise

SAVE-Suicide Awareness Voices of Education

Society of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology

Stop Predatory Gambling

Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders

Street Grace

Student Data Privacy Project

The American Youth Association

The Kennedy Forum

The Tech Oversight Project

TJP Advocacy

Up Against Eating Disorders

Wired Human

Women's Liberation Front

Young People's Alliance

Alabama
Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics

Alaska
Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance

Arizona
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Arkansas
Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Living Hope Eating Disorder Treatment Center

California
American Academy of Pediatrics- OC Chapter- (CA-Chapter 4)

California, American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 1

California, American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3

Eating Disorders Resource Center (Campbell, CA)

Jewish Family and Children's Services (San

Francisco, CA)

The Healthy Teen Project (Los Altos, CA)

The Healthy Teen Project (San Francisco, CA)

Colorado

ACUTE Center for Eating Disorders

Children's Hospital Colorado

Colorado Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

District of Columbia

American Academy of Pediatrics, District of Columbia Chapter

Florida

Campaign Against Human Trafficking South Shore (Sun City Center, FL)

Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Paving the Way Foundation

The Reconnect Movement

Georgia

American Academy of Pediatrics- Georgia Chapter

Moms Against Gambling

The Emily Program (Atlanta, GA)

Idaho

American Academy of Pediatrics, Idaho Chapter

Center for Change (Boise, ID)

Citizens for Decency

Illinois

Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

SunCloud Health (Chicago, IL)

SunCloud Health (Naperville, IL)

SunCloud Health (Northbrook, IL)

Indiana

Farrington Specialty Centers (Fort Wayne, IN)

Farrington Specialty Centers (Indianapolis, IN)

Farrington Specialty Centers (Plymouth, IN)

Iowa

Eating Disorders Coalition of Iowa

Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Kansas

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

The Stop Trafficking Project ®

Kentucky

Kentucky Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Kentucky Voices for Health

Louisiana

Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Young Democrats of Louisiana

Maine

Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Maryland

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Suncloud Health (Gaithersburg, MD)

Massachusetts

Becca Schmill Foundation

Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Michigan

Michigan Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Minnesota

Devin J. Norring Foundation

Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

The Emily Program (Duluth, MN)

The Emily Program (St. Louis Park, MN)

The Emily Program (St. Paul, MN)

Mississippi

Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Missouri

Washington University in St. Louis ACCESS Lab

Montana

Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Yellowstone Human Tracking Task Force

Nebraska

Nebraska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Nevada

Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

New Mexico

New Mexico Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

New York

American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Chapter 1

American Academy of Pediatrics, New York

Chapter 2

American Academy of Pediatrics, New York

Chapter 3

BALANCE Eating Disorder Treatment Center (New York, NY)

Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders (Rochester, NY)

North Carolina

Daughters of Worth (Greenville, NC)

Human Trafficking Resource Center (High Point, NC)

North Carolina Stop Human Trafficking

North Carolina Pediatric Society

Stand Against Trafficking USA/Women's Life Center

The Emily Program (Charlotte, NC)

The Emily Program (Durham, NC)

Ohio

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

The Emily Program (Cleveland, OH)

The Emily Program (Columbus, OH)

Oklahoma

Living Hope Eating Disorder Treatment Center (Norman, OK)

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

The Emily Program (Pittsburgh, PA)

Rhode Island

American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter

South Carolina

South Carolina Legislative Roundtable

South Dakota

Victus Counseling

Tennessee

Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Texas

David's Legacy Foundation

Refuge City (Dallas, TX)

Utah

Center for Change (Cottonwood Heights, UT)

Center for Change (Orem, UT)

Utah Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Washington

Opal: Food+Body Wisdom (Seattle, WA)

The Emily Program (Seattle, WA)

The Emily Program (South Sound, WA)

The Emily Program (Spokane, WA)

Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Washington Nature Preschool Association

West Virginia

West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Wyoming

Wyoming Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics