

May 15, 2024

Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Steve Scalise  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Virginia Foxx  
Education & Workforce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Bobby Scott  
Education & Workforce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**SUBJECT: Groups Concerned about Harms Arising from the Kids Online Safety Act**

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Scalise, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Rodgers, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Foxx, and Ranking Member Scott:

As parents, and leaders of pro-family organizations, we are deeply concerned about the so-called Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) (S. 1409/H.R. 7891). Despite its purported intention of keeping kids safe online, this bill, in fact, would do the exact opposite.

We believe that safety for children online begins at home, with parents – not government bureaucrats – making decisions about their children’s online activities.

**Empowering Federal Bureaucrats, while Diminishing the Role of Parents:**

- This bill would strip parents of their responsibilities, transferring that authority to Washington bureaucrats at the Federal Trade Commission and elsewhere.
- The bill would allow children to become data subjects in government-funded studies without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

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- The same bureaucrats in Washington, DC and the same special-interest groups, including the American Psychiatric Association, that advocated for damaging school closures, Covid-era lockdowns, and other heavy-handed mandates would be empowered, under this bill, to dictate policies about our children's online access.

**Privacy Concerns:**

- Under the guise of protecting children, this bill would expose our children to enhanced dangers online, and would forfeit their online privacy.
- To comply with age verification requirements, social media sites would be forced to collect sensitive information to verify ages. That means that in order for families to use these platforms, the platforms would have to collect government-issued identity documents – thereby putting our most sensitive personal information at risk from hacks.
- The bill would give the federal government sweeping powers to study how individuals, including children, use social media, allowing the government to require social media companies to turn over user data without any regard for privacy.

For these reasons, among others, we believe that this bill would increase, rather than diminish, harms to children and the bill would make it harder for parents to protect their children from these harms. On behalf of families across America, we urge you to oppose and defeat the Kids Online Safety Act.

Sincerely,

Rick Santorum  
Former United States Senator

Andrew Langer  
President  
Institute for Liberty

Phil Kerpen  
President  
American Commitment

Jenny Beth Martin  
Honorary Chairman  
Tea Party Patriots Action

Jessica Melugin  
Director, Center for Technology and Innovation  
Competitive Enterprise Institute

George Landrith  
President  
Frontiers of Freedom Institute

Bob Carlstrom  
President  
AMAC Action

Allen Fuller  
President  
Knox Initiative