

STATE OF TENNESSEE

Office of the Attorney General



JONATHAN SKRMETTI
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REPORTER

P.O. BOX 20207, NASHVILLE, TN 37202
TELEPHONE (615)741-3491
FACSIMILE (615)741-2009

November 18, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support Passage of the Kids Online Safety Act

Dear Speaker, Majority Leader, Minority Leaders, and Chairs

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, as the chief legal officers of our states, write in support of the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act (“KOSA”). While an increasingly online world has improved many aspects of our material well-being, prolific internet usage negatively impacts our children—with some studies suggesting minors spend over 5 hours daily on the internet. KOSA will establish better safeguards for minors online.

We are acutely aware of the threats minors face on social media. Many social media platforms target minors, resulting in a national youth mental health catastrophe. These platforms make their products addictive to minor users, and then profit from selling minor user data to advertisers. These platforms fail to disclose the addicting nature of their products, nor the harms associated with increased social media use. Instead, minor users receive endless tailored and toxic content. Further, increasing evidence suggests these platforms are aware of the negative mental health effects social media burdens its underage users with, but choose to continue these

practices. This is why many of our Offices commenced investigations and lawsuits against Meta and TikTok for harming minors.

We encourage Congress to act to aid our state-level efforts. KOSA addresses these threats to our children in several ways. First, KOSA mandates social media platforms enable their strongest safety settings by default, rather than requiring minors to opt-in to additional protections. Second, KOSA permits minors and their parents or guardians to disable the most addictive product features and grants the choice to opt out of algorithmic recommendations. Third, KOSA equips parents with new controls to support their children and identify harmful behaviors, as well as improved reporting capabilities.

This is a great improvement over the earlier version that did not provide for state enforcement. The states have been consistently acting to vigorously protect kids from online dangers using their existing consumer protection authority, and we look forward to further collaboration. These changes will help create a safer online environment that reduces harm to kids. We respectfully encourage you to pass KOSA¹ this year.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Skrmetti
Tennessee Attorney General & Reporter



Alabama Attorney General



Arkansas Attorney General

¹ Many of the States understand that there are multiple draft versions of KOSA. Congress should pass a version of KOSA that would not prohibit a State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to minors than the protection provided by the provisions of this title.



Colorado Attorney General



Illinois Attorney General



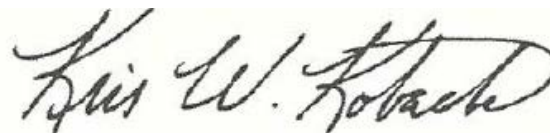
Connecticut Attorney General



Indiana Attorney General



Delaware Attorney General



Kansas Attorney General



District of Columbia Attorney General



Kentucky Attorney General



Florida Attorney General



Louisiana Attorney General



Georgia Attorney General



Maryland Attorney General



Hawaii Attorney General



Massachusetts Attorney General



Minnesota Attorney General



North Dakota Attorney General



Mississippi Attorney General



Oklahoma Attorney General



Missouri Attorney General



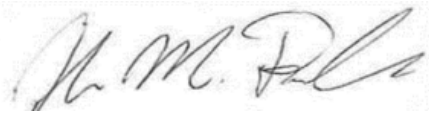
Rhode Island Attorney General



Montana Attorney General



South Carolina Attorney General



New Hampshire Attorney General



South Dakota Attorney General




New Mexico Attorney General



Utah Attorney General



New York Attorney General



Vermont Attorney General



Wyoming Attorney General

c.c.

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510