

December 6th, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

As advocates for children's health, online safety, privacy, mental health, parents, young people, and technology used for the common good, we are writing to express our deep disappointment over the news that the bipartisan *S.1409, The Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA)* will not receive a vote by the full Senate before the end of the year. Given the [overwhelming public and bipartisan support](#) for the legislation – including support from 86% of Americans — calls for passage from [President Biden](#) and the [United States Surgeon General](#), and its approval by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee in July, this decision allows social media platforms to continue to place profits over kids' safety. The [evidence is clear](#) that Big Tech has knowingly profited at the expense of our kids' well-being. Already too many kids and families have experienced the dire consequences that result from social media companies' greed. Accountability is far overdue.

We strongly and respectfully urge you to schedule a vote on KOSA for the first week Congress returns in January.

We were encouraged by your indications of support earlier this year for bringing KOSA and other kids and tech-related legislation to the floor for a vote in 2023. Parents, educators, medical experts, young people, and a broad swath of the public have been counting on it, and they have [called for action](#) to address the dangers posed by Big Tech's platforms – because they've seen up close the harms to children and teens and the economic incentives that govern the platforms' decisions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide rates among 10 to 24 year-olds have doubled in the last 20 years, and more than [10,000 people die every year from eating disorders](#). Companies have derived [millions of dollars](#) per year by “optimizing” algorithms for engagement resulting in increased exposure among young girls to ‘pro-anorexia’ videos and other content that promotes eating disorders.

It's no surprise that the Surgeon General has [warned that social media platforms pose a “profound risk of harm” to youth](#).

All the while, social media companies [know the extent](#) to which their products are harming kids online – and in some cases are [trying to make it harder to report abuse](#). Big Tech's [addictive algorithms](#) are manipulative, generating and suggesting content based on previous behavior. The onus must be on the companies to make their products safe and not designed to fill kids' feeds with posts that promote eating disorders, suicide, drug use, or sexual abuse. But it is Congress'

responsibility to force the platforms to enact and enforce the changes that these companies refuse to make, despite the evidence of their platforms' harms.

That's why KOSA is supported by [over 200 national, state, and local organizations](#). KOSA passed out of committee unanimously because it will help repair a broken status quo and protect children and teens online from social media's worst harms.

While it's encouraging to see that the Senate Judiciary Committee will be hearing directly from tech CEOs at the end of January, another congressional reprimand will not make the internet safer and healthier for children and families; only congressional passage of KOSA and other online safety and tech-related legislation can do that.

We believe that you and many other members of the Senate are serious about wanting to protect kids and teens online, but the only way to make a difference in kids' and parents' lives now is to pass KOSA as soon as possible. We strongly and respectfully urge you to schedule a vote on KOSA for the first week Congress returns in January.

We thank you for your leadership in this critical area and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

#HalfTheStory

Academy for Eating Disorders

Accanto Health

Accountable Tech

Active Minds

Ai Pono Hawaii

Alabama Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance

Alexander Neville Foundation

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

American Association for the Child's Right to Play

American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Counseling Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Group Psychotherapy Association American Psychological Association

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Arizona Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Association For Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies

Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents [ALAS]  
BALANCE Eating Disorder Treatment Center  
Banu Foundation  
Be Real USA  
Becca Schmill Foundation  
Berkeley Media Studies Group  
Body Activists  
California, American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 1  
California, American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 2  
California, American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3  
Carly Ryan Foundation  
Carolina Resource Center for Eating Disorder Center for Change  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Center for Discovery Eating Disorders Treatment  
Center for Humane Technology  
Center for Intuitive Eating Center for Online Safety  
Chasing Hope Foundation  
ChildFund International  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development  
Citizens for Decency  
Clementine Programs  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Colorado Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Common Sense Media  
Consumer Action  
Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology  
D.C. Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Defending the Early Years  
David’s Legacy Foundation  
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Design It For Us  
Devin J. Norring Foundation  
Discovery Mood & Anxiety Program  
Disordered Eating Center of Charleston- Charleston, West Virginia  
Early Childhood Work Group, Screen Time Action Network at Fairplay  
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa  
Eating Disorder Foundation Eating Disorder Resource Center  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action Eating Disorders New Hampshire  
Eating Disorders Resource Center of Silicon Valley  
Eating Recovery Center  
EDGE Consulting Partners

EDRCSV  
Educate and Empower Kids  
Emily Program  
Enough Is Enough  
Equip Health  
Erik's Cause  
Fairplay  
Farrington Specialty Centers  
Florida Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
For You  
From Love  
Galen Hope  
Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Global Hope 365  
Idaho Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
IFEDD, The International Federation of Eating Disorder Dietitians  
Illinois Certified Recovery Support Specialist  
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Indiana Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Inner Explorer  
Inner Haven  
Inseparable  
International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses  
Iowa Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Issue One  
Josselyn  
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties  
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Kentucky Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Kentucky Eating Disorder Council  
Kentucky Voices for Health  
Lines for Life  
LiveMore ScreenLess  
Lookup.live  
Louisiana Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Lynn's Warriors  
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Massachusetts PTA  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
McCallum Place Eating Disorder Center

Media Education Foundation  
Mental Health America  
Mental Health America of Arizona  
Mental Health America of Augusta  
Mental Health America of Greater Dallas  
Mental Health America of Greater Houston  
Mental Health America of Hawaii  
Mental Health America of Hendricks County  
Mental Health America of Illinois  
Mental Health America of Kentucky  
Mental Health America of West Central Indiana, Inc.  
Mental Health Association of Monmouth County  
Mental Health Association of South Mississippi  
Mental Health Minnesota  
Mental Health Summit  
Mental Health Work Group, Screen Time Action Network at Fairplay  
Michigan Eating Disorders Alliance  
Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Missouri Eating Disorders Association  
Missouri Eating Disorders Council  
Monte Nido and Affiliates  
Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association, Inc (MEDA)  
NAMI Barrington Area  
NAMI CCNS  
NAMI Lexington  
NAMI South Suburbs  
NAMI Will-Grundy  
National Alliance for Eating Disorders  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
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  
National Eating Disorders Association  
National Education Association  
National Federation of Families  
National League for Nursing  
Nebraska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
New York State, American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 2

New York State, American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3  
North Dakota Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
North Carolina Pediatric Society  
NoSo November  
Odyssey Eating Disorder Network  
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Oklahoma Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Oliver-Pyatt Centers  
Online Harms Prevention Work Group, Screen Time Action Network at Fairplay  
Opal: Food+Body Wisdom  
Orange County Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
PACT  
Parents Television and Media Council  
Parents Who Fight  
ParentsTogether Action  
Paving the Way Foundation  
Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Policy Initiatives Institute  
Porn Free Colorado  
Postpartum Support International  
Project HEAL  
Project Liberty Action Network  
Project STAND  
Prosperity Eating Disorders and Wellness  
Protect Young Eyes  
Public Citizen  
Realized Potential Inc  
REDC Consortium  
Renfrew Center  
Rescue Innocence Movement  
RI International  
Rosewood Center for Eating Disorders  
Rudd Center for Food Policy & Health  
Sandy Hook Promise  
Screens in Schools Work Group, Screen Time Action Network at Fairplay  
SEA WAVES, Inc  
Society for Digital Mental Health  
Society for Research in Psychopathology  
Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Division 53  
South Carolina Legislative Roundtable  
Stop Predatory Gambling and the Campaign for Gambling-Free Kids  
Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders

Student Data Privacy Project  
SunCloud Health  
The Real Facebook Oversight Board  
The Tech Oversight Project  
Tennessee Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
The Kennedy Forum  
The Jed Foundation Therapy for Black Kids  
Together with Love  
Twig & Thread Consulting  
Utah Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Veritas Collaborative  
Vermont Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Victus Counseling & Nutrition Services  
Vote For Freedom  
Walden Eating Disorders Treatment  
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America  
Washington Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Washington Nature Preschool Association (WaNPA)  
Washington University School of Medicine Center for Healthy Weight and Wellness  
Wealth Management Ministries-Prevention Works Joint Task Force and Coalition  
West Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders  
Will County Health Department  
Wired Human  
WithAll  
Within Health  
Wyoming Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
YCA Human Trafficking Task Force