

WHY YOU **MUST REJECT** H.R. 7757: THE KIDS INTERNET AND DIGITAL SAFETY ACT (KIDS)

We are The World Without Exploitation Youth Coalition, the by-youth-for-youth branch of World Without Exploitation, the largest national anti-trafficking coalition in the country. Individuals aged 15-28, we have grown up with technology and experienced its harms and effects firsthand. We urge you to reject H.R. 7757 Kids Internet and Digital Safety Act (KIDS).

S. 1748, a strong version of the Kids Online Safety Act, has 75 cosponsors, and in the 118th Congress, passed in the Senate 91 to 3. Despite this momentum, the KIDS Act, which includes a version of KOSA, was recently marked up in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. **While this bill might seem to be doing the right thing in theory, a closer examination shows that its application could be detrimental to youth.**

1 The Duty of Care Has Been Gutted.

The duty of care has been gutted. Platforms will no longer be required to exercise reasonable care in the design or implementation of their products. Section 213(c)(2) explicitly states that the bill does not impose a duty of care—language that could be used to undermine lawsuits brought by families across the country.

2 Stops States From Protecting Children's Online Safety.

Adds a preemption clause. State tech safety laws would be removed, and states would not be able to take additional action. Section 221 changes “relates to” to “conflicts with,” which still blocks state laws. Platforms are expected to challenge this in court for years, placing the burden on under-resourced state attorneys general.

3 List of Harms Is Severely Limited.

The scope of harms covered by the bill has been narrowed. Eating disorders, substance use disorders, suicidal behaviors, depression and anxiety, bullying, and addiction have all been removed from the list of harms, meaning Big Tech would not be held accountable for facilitating them.

4 Sets An Impossible Knowledge Standard.

Impossible Knowledge standard: Nearly every protection only applies if a platform “knows” a user is a minor, yet platforms are not required to verify age, making it nearly impossible to protect children.

Big Tech spends \$220,000 per day to ensure legislation like this passes, despite half of teens wishing social media didn't exist, and half of social media negatively impacts people their age. This version must not move forward. We must pass the strongest version, S.1748.¹²

WHY A STRONG VERSION OF KOSA IS IMPORTANT TO YOUTH COALITION MEMBERS

“I became involved with social media in 6th grade and watched it transform from a casual space to connect with friends into an algorithm-driven environment designed to keep users scrolling. By the time I was in high school and struggling with depression, those same systems amplified my vulnerability by repeatedly showing me content that reinforced negative thoughts. The Kids Online Safety Act was meant to protect children from these harms so future generations don’t have to experience them—but the newest proposal removes the clear responsibility platforms should have to prevent and mitigate them.”

Sam Schawe, 24

“When core harms like bullying, depression, eating disorders, substance use disorder and suicidal behaviors are removed from the bill, it weakens the protections young people need most. Social media content that promotes or normalizes these harms reaches kids every day, putting any child with internet access at risk. We must strengthen, not dilute, the original intent of the Kids Online Safety Act.”

Bella Goldman, 23

“A strong version of KOSA is imperative because it shows that we won’t accept anything less than complete protection for children. Legislation masquerading as such isn’t enough when the lives and well-being of children are at risk.”

Grace Slevin, 23

“I received a phone at 10 years old, and I got on social media apps like Instagram and Musically. My parents had no idea what these apps were or what effect they could possibly have on my development. They never expected sexually explicit and violent content on these apps. However, it should not have been their burden to learn about these apps.”

Zoe Alsfine, 19