



Committee: Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee

Event: [Full Committee Markup of S. 737, S. 1748, S. 4199, S. 4407, and S. 5171](#)

Date: August 5, 2026

Executive Summary:

On August 5, 2026, the Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee held a markup to consider five bills addressing online child safety, age verification, artificial intelligence (AI), and digital privacy. The legislation includes proposals to establish age-verification requirements for certain online services, impose online safety obligations for platforms used by minors, regulate AI chatbot interactions with children, limit the collection and use of minors' data by AI systems, and establish safety standards for AI-enabled toys. **Lawmakers favorably reported four of the five bills from the Committee.**

- *SCREEN Act* ([S. 737](#))
- *Kids Online Safety Act* (KOSA; [S. 1748](#))
- *Youth AI Privacy Act* ([S. 4199](#))
- *CHATBOT Act* ([S. 4407](#))
- *Children's AI Toy Safety Act of 2026* ([S. 5171](#))

Member Toplines¹:

Chair Ted Cruz (R-TX): Cruz introduced the package of five kids online safety and AI-related bills, arguing the legislation would empower parents with greater control over their children's online experiences while allowing children to continue learning, creating, and communicating online.

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA): Cantwell highlighted KOSA specifically, arguing that the bill places greater responsibility on social media companies to protect children from harmful online content and practices.

Legislation Considered:

***SCREEN Act* ([S. 737](#))**

- I. Sen. **John Curtis** (R-UT) offered an [amendment in the nature of a substitute](#) (AINS).
- II. While the recorded vote was 15–13 in favor, the Committee lacked sufficient in-person attendance to report the legislation to the Senate floor.
- III. **The bill was not reported out of Committee.**

¹ The opening remarks of Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell were unavailable at the time of this memo's distribution.

Kids Online Safety Act ([S. 1748](#))

I. Member Toplines:

- Cantwell motioned to favorably report KOSA as modified by Sen. **Marsha Blackburn's** (R-TN) [AINS](#).
- Blackburn argued the legislation sends a clear message that large technology companies must do more to protect children online.
- Sen. **Shelley Moore Capito** (R-WV) validated the bill's strong guardrails on online platforms to safeguard minors and better filter violent, unsafe, and sexually explicit content.
- Sen. **Dan Sullivan** (R-AK) offered an amendment directing platforms to provide mental health resources when young users appear to be struggling.
 - Cantwell expressed concern that unlimited chatbot memory presents significant privacy risks.
 - The amendment was withdrawn.

II. Unanimously passed out of Committee as amended by voice vote.

Youth AI Privacy Act ([S. 4199](#))

I. Member Toplines

- Cruz argued long-term memory can make AI tools more useful while preserving parental choice.
- Sen. **Brian Schatz** (D-HI) argued the 30-day chatbot memory limit provides an appropriate privacy guardrail.
- Sen. **Ed Markey's** (D-MA) [AINS](#) was approved.
- Cruz's [amendment](#) was approved.
- Budd's [amendment](#) was approved.
- Sen. **Cynthia Lummis** (R-WY) had [two amendments](#) approved.
- Cruz offered an amendment to empower parents to make decisions regarding their children's AI interactions and to cap chatbot memory retention at 30 days by default, while allowing parents to authorize longer-term memory retention.
 - Passed by a recorded vote of 15-13.
- Lawmakers adopted three additional amendments by voice vote.

II. Unanimously passed out of Committee by voice vote.

CHATBOT Act ([S. 4407](#))

I. Member Toplines

- Cruz, Schatz, and Curtis offered an [AINS](#), which was approved.
- Sen. **Andy Kim** (D-NJ) offered [two amendments](#) that were approved.

- Curtis stated the legislation represents an important first step toward regulating AI chatbots, while emphasizing additional work remains.

II. Unanimously passed out of Committee as amended by voice vote.

Children’s AI Toy Safety Act of 2026 ([S. 5171](#))

I. Member Toplines

- Sen. **Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL) argued AI-powered toys increasingly incorporate chatbot technologies capable of exposing children to sexually explicit or otherwise dangerous content. She stated there are currently no comprehensive federal safety standards governing these products and warned they may create physical, emotional, mental, social, and data privacy risks.
 - Duckworth noted the bill would require the Federal Trade Commission to develop a plan addressing AI-enabled toys, direct the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study the risks these products pose to children, and clarify that the legislation does not preempt state laws.
- Duckworth’s [AINS](#) was approved.

II. Unanimously passed out of Committee as amended by voice vote.