



EDC Heralds Release of the Kids Online Safety Act for Congressional End-of-Year Package

WASHINGTON D.C. (December 13, 2022) – Today, Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) released updated legislative text of S.3663 the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) in preparation for potential inclusion into law by the end of the year. The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is proud to have worked with the bill leads, Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and several organizational partners to clarify and strengthen the bill for children, teens, and families. The release of the revised bill text marks the first public update to KOSA since the bill passed unanimously through the Senate Commerce Committee this summer. The most significant changes to the legislative text include:

1. Anchoring child sexual exploitation under federal criminal statute;
2. Reinforcing the bill’s mental health provisions and linking them explicitly to clinical care;
3. Narrowing the bill’s Duty of Care provisions for appropriate enforcement;
4. Including a limitation to ensure that “duty of care” is not misconstrued to require content moderation for minors;
5. Excluding schools, educational services, and non-profit organizations from adhering to the bill requirements; and
6. Addressing concerns about data privacy and age verification.

The updated bill text can be [found here](#).

“With these changes—made with bipartisan and broad advocate support—there is no reason for the bill not to move ahead,” **said Senators Blumenthal and Blackburn in a joint statement**. “Young people and grieving parents from across the country have powerfully asked us: how many more children have to die before we make them a priority? The time for stronger online safeguards and Big Tech accountability is now.”

The EDC applauds these updates, which reflect the expertise of dozens of experts coming together to ensure the protection of young people online. Particularly, the EDC wants to thank LGBTQ+, educational, and health care provider organizations for participating in this collaborative process and stewarding the future of safe and healthy online engagement. The

publication of this updated text readies KOSA for movement forward this year. The EDC will continue to work tirelessly with Senators Blumenthal and Blackburn, House and Senate leadership, and our organizational partners to advance KOSA within an end-of-year legislative package.

“My peers and I live in a world dominated, furnished, and fed by social media, where our time and personal data are little more than profit incentives for platforms” **said Executive Director of the Policy Initiatives Institute, EDC Young Adult Council Co-Chair, and high school junior Najman Mahbouba.** “We are demanding change – protections against algorithm’s exploitation of young users and accountability for the way platforms trap kids in harmful rabbit holes. Congress must pass the Kids Online Safety Act this year.”

“The Kids Online Safety Act is an important first step in reining in the harms caused to children by social media platforms,” **said American Psychological Association (APA) CEO Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD.** “Enacting measures that curtail harmful practices while authorizing research to understand additional impacts is a thoughtful strategy. APA supports the leadership and bipartisan efforts of Senators Blumenthal and Blackburn on this measure and looks forward to working with Congress to address this important issue.”

"KOSA is a critical step towards creating the internet young people deserve," **said Fairplay Executive Director Josh Golin.** "Rather than leaving up to kids and parents to fend for themselves, KOSA mandates an upstream, safety-by-design approach that requires Big Tech to address serious harms to kids and teens before they occur. KOSA also gives young people and parents more tools to create a safer online experience and researchers critical access to the black box algorithms that target youth. We urge Congress to save children's lives by moving this bipartisan legislation before year's end."

“It is critical that Congress pass the Kids Online Safety Act this year and finally put an end to the pro-eating disorders algorithms on social media,” **said EDC Board of Directors President, Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW, LCSW, CEDS.** “Our youth deserve to be safe and protected online and the Eating Disorders Coalition is so proud to be working with our partners on this monumental legislation.”

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, D.C. based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

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