

# Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA)

Sponsors: Senators Blumenthal (D-CT) and Blackburn (R-TN)

**The Problem:** Social media algorithms knowingly promote harmful mental health content to youth in return for boosted engagement and profits

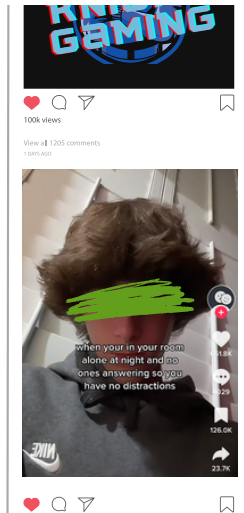
Social media platform algorithms place

extreme pro-eating disorder, suicide, & depression content

next to

youth-targeted advertising

and serve this content to youth to maximize engagement & spending <sup>1</sup>



Instagram is home to **90,000 pro-ED content creators** reaching **20 million followers** <sup>2</sup>



& profits more than **\$230M/yr** from pro-ED content



On TikTok, harmful content is served every:

**2.6 mins** for suicide  
**8 mins** for eating disorders <sup>3</sup>



Nearly half of U.S. teens

report experiencing cyberbullying, which increases suicide risk <sup>4</sup>

**The Impact:** Rise in youth psychiatric conditions fueled by social media



Pandemic isolation led to **increased social media usage** and a **disruption in healthy routines** <sup>5</sup>



**Doubled**  
**Tripled**  
**Majority**

ER visits for teen girls with EDs <sup>6</sup>

pediatric psychiatric ER visits <sup>7</sup>

of trans youth considered suicide & LGBTQ+ youth with EDs were **4x more likely to attempt suicide** than LGBTQ+ peers w/o EDs (2021) <sup>8</sup>

**The Solution:** Pass the Kids Online Safety Act to



**Protect young people from mental health and other harms on social media platforms**



**Enhance user & parent controls to disable ads and protect privacy**



**Hold accountable platforms' push of harmful content to young users**

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## Sources

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