



## **U.S. Senate Passes the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act Marking a Historic Moment for Kids Online Protection**

**WASHINGTON D.C. (July 30, 2024)** – Today, the U.S. Senate passed the *Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act* (KOSPA), formerly known as the *Kids Online Safety Act* with a vote of 91 to 3. The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action (EDC) expresses sincere gratitude to Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) for their leadership and tireless efforts over the past two years. We would like to thank the 71 bipartisan co-sponsors of the bill and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) for prioritizing this legislation and ensuring its successful vote out of the Senate. The Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act marks the first significant step to hold big tech accountable for the harms on young users since the passage of the *Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998*.

EDC is proud to be one of the leaders for this legislation since its inception in 2022. It is a privilege to work with hundreds of dedicated organizations and advocates to fight against big tech’s harmful product design practices that cause children to die and families irreparably damaged. Social media companies have proven they cannot self-regulate themselves. Bold action from Congress is needed to put restraints on the unmitigated harm caused by their reckless business practices.

An [increasing body of evidence](#) demonstrates that many online platforms are designed in ways to expose young people to harmful content that creates negative body image, incites bullying and other damaging behaviors like substance use, can lead to self-harm, eating disorders, suicidal behaviors, promote addictive use patterns, and pushes products that are especially unsafe for children. KOSPA will implement robust measures to protect children from these various online threats, ensuring a safer digital environment.

“Today, we are one step closer to making the internet a safer place for American children and teens,” **said Majority Leader Schumer**. “Thank you, above all, to the parents who advocated so tirelessly for these bills who shared the stories of their kids and turned their grief into immense grace: thank you. These parents are the real reason we succeed today. I’ve sat with them. I’ve heard the terrible stories: children, teenagers, captured by an algorithm online by accident, and then the unthinkable happens. But these parents have turned their grief into grace. Now, the House must seize this opportunity, immediately pass the Kids Online Safety Bill, and get it one step closer to becoming law.”

“This moving and historic day marks a major win for our children. Anyone who doubted whether we’d reach this milestone has never met our advocates – the parents who have lost children and

the young people who refused to be treated like Big Tech piggy banks,” **said Senator Blumenthal**. “Through their shared grief, these families worked with grit and grace to be some of the most dedicated and devoted advocates my colleagues have ever seen. I am deeply grateful to Senators Schumer and McConnell for moving the Kids Online Safety Act through the Senate and to Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz for their leadership on the Commerce Committee. We are excited now to work with our champions in the House of Representatives. I am confident that the support of our large, diverse, determined coalition will get this bill across the finish line. It will be the first internet safety reform in nearly three decades – a resounding bipartisan achievement showing democracy still works.”

“Today, the Senate took a major step forward in protecting children online by passing the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act,” **said Senator Blackburn**. “This legislation provides young people and parents with the tools, safeguards, and transparency they need to protect against online harms. I want to thank Senator Blumenthal for his excellent partnership, along with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Commerce Committee Chairwoman Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), and Ranking Member Ted Cruz (R-Texas) for helping us carry this across the finish line in the Senate. I also appreciate our House champions for pushing this legislation. The Senate passage of KOSA could not have been possible without the support of the over 240 organizations lined up behind this legislation and the hundreds of parents that have flown to Washington on their own dime to lobby Congress and push this legislation forward. The 91 Senators from across the political spectrum that stood up to Big Tech and voted in favor of this legislation have helped save countless innocent lives from being exploited online.”

“The impact of harmful online content on our children is devastating,” **said Tracy Ann Bancroft, Parent Advocate, Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action**. “I watched my son go down a rabbit hole on social media and strongly believe this contributed to his eating disorder. As parents, we cannot protect our kids alone. Thankfully, Congress has taken the first step by passing the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act. This critical legislation will hold big tech and social media accountable, preventing the promotion of harmful content such as eating disorders and self-harm behaviors that negatively affect our children's mental health.”

“Today is an historic day, and the EDC is thrilled to have been in such strong collaboration with our coalition partners,” **said Christine Peat, Ph.D., President of Board of Directors, Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action**. “Congress has heard our voices, and together we are making real strides to protect vulnerable youth from online harms.”

EDC now urges leadership in the U.S. House of the Representatives to bring KOSPA to the House floor for a vote as soon as they return from August recess. The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress has the opportunity to make history by passing the first legislation in 25 years to protect kids online.

*The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action is a federal advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States.*

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