

# H.R. 7757, THE KIDS INTERNET AND DIGITAL SAFETY (KIDS) ACT

## BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO KEEP CHILDREN AND TEENS SAFE ONLINE

**Safety by Default:** Platforms must maximize protections for children and teens by default. The KIDS Act:

- Requires platforms to put safeguards in place to address harms to minors, including for sexual exploitation and abuse, financial scams, alcohol, tobacco, narcotic drugs, and gambling.
- Limits design features that result in compulsive usage.
- Requires that online safeguards, such as limiting the sharing of geolocation information, be turned on by default at the most protective level.
- Prohibits platforms from facilitating the advertisement of illegal products to kids.
- Prohibits platforms from defaulting to personalized, algorithm-driven feeds for minors.

**Empower Parents:** Parents must be empowered with easy-to-use tools and controls to protect their kids. The KIDS Act:

- Requires easily accessible parental controls and tools.
- Ensures parental oversight of privacy and account settings, in-platform purchases, and risky messaging features.
- Provides a centralized interface for parents to manage tools and permissions, to make using the tools and providing parental consent as easy as possible.
- Identifies national best practices to ensure the effectiveness of parental controls.

**Protect Kids' Privacy:** Children and teens deserve robust privacy protections fit for the modern internet. The KIDS Act:

- Extends COPPA 1.0 protections to teens and expands protections for children.
- Bans targeted advertising to children and teens.
- Prohibits market and product research on children.
- Guarantees privacy settings are the most protective by default.
- Increases transparency around data brokers who handle children's and teens' data.

**Hold Big Tech and Internet Platforms Accountable:** Robust enforcement and oversight are critical to hold online platforms accountable.

The KIDS Act:

- Authorizes Federal Trade Commission first-fine civil penalties against violators.
- Enables State Attorneys General enforcement of the entire Act.
- Requires platforms to undergo annual third-party audits to assess kids' online safety.
- Requires platforms to have a reporting mechanism on harms to minors.

**Require Age Verification for Pornographic Websites:** The KIDS Act:

- Mandates age verification to access pornography.
- Ensures privacy and data security protections are in place for use of age verification.
- Does not include requirements to hand over government-issued identification.



**Address Emerging Risks and Technologies:** Digital technologies, including AI, are continuously evolving and can pose new risks to kids.

The KIDS Act:

- Addresses risks posed by AI chatbots by providing minors with access to mental health resources, banning deceptive professional advice, and mandating safeguards for unlawful material for minors and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Ensures minors can communicate safely and makes safeguards available for parents to activate for their kids on social gaming platforms.
- Puts in place new restrictions on disappearing messages.

**Facilitate Educational Campaigns and Research:** Policymakers must be equipped to address novel challenges, and parents must have the know-how to promote a safer internet for kids. The KIDS Act:

- Establishes nationwide education campaigns on internet and AI chatbot use by minors.
- Directs federal agencies to conduct research on social media and fentanyl, the effectiveness of parental controls and tools, chatbots, and minors' use of social media.

