

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

**RE: Amendments to H.R. 7891, Kids Online Safety**

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

We are parents of children who have died from suicide, fentanyl poisoning, or accidental death caused by dangerous social media platforms, writing to express our opposition to the amendment to H.R. 7891, Kids Online Safety Act, scheduled for markup by the Energy and Commerce Committee on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

For the past three years, we have urged Congress to protect kids from social media platforms that maximize advertising revenue through addictive algorithms, exploiting adolescents' underdeveloped brains by deluging them with material that promotes depression, anxiety, suicide and eating disorders and connects them to sexual predators and drug dealers. Having suffered the worst loss a parent can endure our singular goal has been to protect other kids from suffering the same fate that befell our children and prevent other families from experiencing the unrelenting grief that we will endure for the rest of our lives.

We were grateful for the Senate's passage of the Kids Online Safety Act with an overwhelming 91 votes and hopeful that the House would follow this bipartisan example. We were appalled to learn that the proposed amendment to H.R. 7891 removes language that would impose on social media companies a duty of care to protect against the very harms that our children sustained. The Senate version required social media companies to implement design features that prevent the following mental health harms: "anxiety, depression, eating disorders, substance use disorders and suicidal behaviors." The House bill eliminates this language, dramatically reducing the harms social media companies owe a duty to prevent and mitigate.

Social media has caused a 156% increase in suicide among 12-16-year-olds, a 350% increase in opioid deaths in minors, a 40% increase in hospital admissions for mental health harms, and skyrocketing rates of anxiety and depression. Ninety-one Senators voted to require social media companies to protect kids from these harms. As parents we cannot support legislation that waters down this solemn commitment.

We urge you to restore the duty of care language passed by the Senate bill and move swiftly to enact this legislation and stop the carnage being inflicting on America's kids by dangerous social media platforms.

Sincerely,

Amanda Eubanks, Redding, CA  
Parent of Luca Manuel, Forever 13

Amanda Randolph, Blue Springs, MO  
Parent of Landen Battle, Forever 22

Amber Royer, Hemet, California  
Parent of Richard Royer, Forever 18

Amie Portis, Austin, TX  
Parent of Sydney Pfullmann, Forever 15

Amy Neville, San Tan Valley, AZ  
Parent of Alexander, Forever 14

Andrea Burris, Lansing, KS  
Parent of Nicholas Cruz Burris, Forever 15

Andrea Hart, Bakersfield, CA  
Parent of Christopher Wagner, Forever 17

Angela Webster, Lincoln Park, Michigan  
Parent of Jakob Berens, Forever 19

Annie McCurdy, Burien, WA  
Parent of Henry, Forever 18

April Tsosie, Billings, Montana  
Parent of Melissa Buckles, Forever 16

Barry Hargreaves, Sterling, VA  
Parent of Jack, Forever 20

Blair Fitzpatrick Aranda, Jonesboro, LA  
Parent of Brantley Barrett Aranda, Forever 17

Brandy and Toney Roberts, New Iberia, Louisiana  
Parents of Englyn Roberts, Forever 14

Brenda Reedy, Farmington, MN  
Parent of Jose Reedy, Forever 20

Bridget Young, Timnath, CO  
Parent of Alex Young, Forever 24

Bridgette & Thomas Norring, Hastings, MN  
Parents of Devin J Norring, Forever 19

Britney Obray, Joseph, Utah  
Parent of Dexton Hutchings, Forever 14

Brittney Shealy, Gilbert, SC  
Parent of Keirstyn Makennah Payge Williamson, Forever 18

Carrie Harrison, Green Bay, WI  
Parent of John "Jack" McDonough, Forever 18

Casey Patridge (Loza), Yorba Linda, CA  
Parent of Sadie Loza, Forever 15

Chris Rasmussen, Tucson, AZ  
Parent of Luis (William), Forever 17

Christine Capelouto, Temecula, CA  
Parent of Alexandra Capelouto, Forever 20

Cindy Sarantos, Riverside, California  
Parent of Dylan Kai Sarantos, Forever 18

Cortney Wright, Spring, Texas  
Parent of Desiree Rosales, Forever 17

Dani, Lynnwood, WA  
Parent of Alex, Forever 18

Darla Gill, Goldonna, Louisiana  
Parent of Emma Claire Gill, Forever 16

Dave Alega, Houston, Texas  
Parent of Jhon Alega, Forever 15

David Osterman, Broomfield, CO  
Parent of Max Osterman, Forever 18

Diana Trujillo, North Myers FL  
Parent of Juan Jiménez, Forever 16

Diane Knudsen, Waxhaw, NC  
Parent of Christopher Knudsen, Forever 19

Donna Peele, Lynnwood, Washington  
Parent of Dakota Elijah Blue Cecil, Forever 17

Elizabeth Davis, Shawnee, Kansas  
Parent of Cooper Davis, Forever 16

Erica Adams, Petaluma, CA  
Parent of Daniel, Forever 16

Erin Popolo, South Brunswick, New Jersey  
Parent of Emily Murillo, Forever 17

Frances Gonzales, Phoenix, Arizona  
Parent of Rey Caballero Jr., Forever 16

Francine Humphreys, Renton, WA  
Parent of Sophia Rose Humphreys, Forever 20

Gail Flatt, Gallatin, Tennessee  
Parent of Sarah Flatt, Forever 14

Hanh Badger, Mission Viejo, CA  
Parent of Brooke, Forever 17

Heriberto Arroyo Roman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Parent of Arriani Jaileen Arroyo, Forever 9

Hillary Hamilton, Thornton, CO  
Parent of Haley Tharp, Forever 19

Jacqueline Cobb, Crossville, Tennessee  
Parent of Braidon Kelly, Forever 13

Jaime Puerta, Santa Clarita, California  
Parent of Daniel Puerta-Johnson, Forever 16

James Ebert, Wamego, KS  
Parent of Jayson Ebert, Forever 21

James Sanborn, Boston, MA  
Parent of Kinhthi Sanborn, Forever 19

Jasmine Penix, Tacoma, Washington  
Parent of Jaylen Penix, Forever 21

Jennie DeSerio, Centerton, Arkansas  
Parent of Mason Edens, Forever 16

Jennifer Stabile, Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Parent of Michael Stabile, Forever 15

Jennifer Buta, Marquette, Michigan  
Parent of Jordan DeMay, Forever 17

Jennifer Ebert, Wamego, KS  
Parent of Jayson Ebert, Forever 21

Jennifer Mitchell, New Port Richey FL  
Parent of Ian Ezquerra, Forever 16

Jess, New Mexico  
Parent of Zaye, Forever 11

Jessica Arevalo, Los Angeles, CA  
Parent of Nayelie Fonseca, Forever 16

Jessica Diacont, Waynesboro VA  
Parent of Jacob Robertson, Forever 15

John DeMay, Marquette, MI  
Parent of Jordan DeMay, Forever 17

John Standal, Brookfield WI  
Parent of Ian, Forever 21

Joann Bogard, Indiana  
Parent of Mason Bogard, Forever 15

Julie K Berndt, Florence, KY  
Parent of Faith Loren Berndt, Forever 20

Karl O Bray, Richfield Utah  
Parent of Dexton Hutchings, Forever 14

Kate Boehmer, Erie, CO  
Parent of Logan Boehmer, Forever 17

Katherine Townsend, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Parent of Saniah Mickle, Forever 16

Kathryn, Indianapolis, IN  
Parent of Chantel, Forever 18

Kathryn Guillot, New Braunfels, TX  
Parent of Kennedy Loftin, Forever 12

Kathy & James McCarthy, Birmingham, Michigan  
Parents of Jack William McCarthy, Forever 19

Kenny Klingele, Half Moon Bay, CA  
Parent of Sequoyah Hunter Klingele, Forever 16

Kimberly Osterman, Broomfield, Colorado  
Parent of Max Osterman, Forever 18

Latasha Jones, Des Moines, IA  
Parent of William Pippins II, Forever 15

Laura Lynch, Bellevue, WA  
Parent of Brillion Lawson Lynch, Forever 18

Lori Schott, Merino, Colorado  
Parent of Annalee Schott, Forever 18

Lynn Sorenson, Gilbert, AZ  
Parent of Ava Sorenson, Forever 17

Maggie Taylor, Ottawa Illinois  
Parent of Emily Taylor, Forever 17

Mahsa Jaeger, Scottsdale, AZ  
Parent of Finale Jaeger, Forever 18

Mary Popolizio, Florida  
Parent of Alexandra-Victoria Colby Popolizio, Forever 18

Matt Capelouto, Temecula, California  
Parent of Alexandra Capelouto, Forever 20

Megan L. Garcia, Esq., Florida  
Parent of Sewell R. Setzer III, Forever 14

Melissa Ward, Leavenworth, KS  
Parent of Hunter Ward, Forever 15

Michael Ourand, Rockville, MD  
Parent of Kevin Ourand, Forever 20

Misty Terrigino, Santan, Valley, Arizona  
Parent of Kaylie Tallant, Forever 17

Nicole Byers, Reno, Nevada  
Parent of Nathan Valente, Forever 21

Patti Klose, Centennial, CO  
Parent of Lauren Lujan, Forever 18

Phillip Bernard, Illinois  
Parent of Veronica, Forever 23

Rebekah Brown, Sand Springs, Oklahoma  
Parent of Cole Brown, Forever 18

Regina Leah Chavez, Roseville, California  
Parent of Jewels Marie Wolf, Forever 15

Renee Kroll, Haskell, NJ  
Parent of Bryan Richard Kroll, Forever 15

Rey Caballero, Avondale, AZ  
Parent of Rey Caballero Jr., Forever 16

Robert Kaylor, Cartersville, GA  
Parent of Kaysha ann, Forever 25

Roy Plunk, Mesa, AZ  
Parent of Zachariah Plunk, Forever 17

Ryan Gill, Goldonna, Louisiana  
Parent of Emma Claire Gill, Forever 16

Shai Malone, Pacific, WA  
Parent of Taylen Dorsey, Forever 15

Shamela Wright, Hammond, IN  
Parent of Damari McDonald, Forever 21

Shannon Rasmussen, Tucson, Arizona  
Parent of Luis Rasmussen, Forever 17

T and K Buford, Kansas City, Missouri  
Parents of B. Buford, Forever 22

Taj Jensen, Olympia, WA  
Parent of Tanner Jensen, Forever 19

Tammy Rodriguez, Enfield, CT  
Parent of Selena Rodriguez, Forever 11

Terry Hutchings, Cartersville GA  
Parent of Kevin Andrew Hutchings, Forever 20

Timothy and Annette Root, Seattle Washington  
Parents of Cooper Root, Forever 16

Tom McCurdy, Burien, WA  
Parent of Henry, Forever 18