

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## **HJR 28: Support Kids Online Safety Act**

Social media use among young people is nearly universal, with up to 95% of teenagers, and 40% of children aged 8-12, on social media.

Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Discord and others. make their profits using algorithms to maximize exposure to advertisements and collect data for marketing. The longer people are online, using these platforms, the more money they make.

Currently, there is inadequate law governing these internet platforms. This came to light dramatically when, in 2021, Frances Haugen, a data scientist for Facebook, exposed thousands of internal documents showing the company knew its products had negative effects on minors' mental health but had repeatedly chosen profit over protecting kids.

In May of 2025 U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn, (R-TN) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) reintroduced legislation, S.1748, to address these issues with legal safeguards for children and teens.

Senate Bill 1748, also known as the "Kids Online Safety Act" (KOSA), would:

- Establish a "duty of care" requiring Internet service platforms to structure their products to not allow promotion or facilitation of bullying and violence; content "promoting" suicide; eating disorders; substance abuse; sexual exploitation, or illegal products such as drugs, tobacco, or alcohol
- Require internet service platforms to include features to protect minors and their data
- Ensure the ability to opt-out of algorithmic recommendations
- Enable minors to permanently delete their account and any associated data
- Restrict communications from non-minors
- Disable addictive product features such as autoplay for videos or platform rewards
- Require internet service platforms to default to the highest possible privacy settings for accounts that belong to minors.

The "Kids Online Safety Act" was first introduced in 2022 and received 93 "yea" votes in the Senate. Reintroduced, it has 75 Senate co-sponsors in the 119<sup>th</sup> congress, including both Senators from Alaska.

HJR28, calls on Congress and the federal Alaska delegation to pass S.1748, the "Kids Online Safety Act," into law.