



 akeatingdisordersalliance.org

 907-600-3584

The Honorable Rep. Amanda Himschoot and The Honorable Rep. Andi Story,
House Education Committee Co-Chairs
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

cc: Alaska State Legislature House Education Committee, House.Education@akleg.gov

Re: Support HJR 28 - Calling on the United States Congress to pass the Kids Online Safety Act.

March 10, 2026

Dear Reps. Himschoot, Story, and House Education Committee Members:

Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance (AKEDA) offers strong support of HJR 28, urging Congress and the President to prioritize passage and signature of the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) during this congressional term.

AKEDA has advocated with Alaska's federal delegation to advance KOSA for several years to share research, community perspectives, and the direct experiences of Alaskans related to this bill. **We respectfully urge the Alaska State Legislature to pass HJR 28 with identical legislation to U.S. Senate Bill 1748, which explicitly requires a duty of care by covered platforms.** U.S. Senate Bill 1748 passed in July 2024 with overwhelming bipartisan support in a 91–3 vote. Defining a duty of care is imperative to KOSA making a difference in the lives of children and families, but U.S. House bill language does not currently include this.

Harmful online content directly impacts and exacerbates Alaskans affected by eating disorders and other serious mental health conditions. Technological advances and online connectivity bring benefits, but have created concrete and measurable harms on youth mental health that must be addressed. **Requiring platforms to perform to a duty of care will prevent companies from consciously engineering services to trap children's attention, which exposes our youth to harmful content, bullying, body-shaming, suicidal ideation, sexual predation, drugs, and so much more that shapes their outlook and developing mental health.**

The research is clear: online environments can promote and exacerbate eating disorders, particularly among young people. Algorithms and online communities can expose vulnerable youth to dangerous content that glorifies disordered eating behaviors, promotes extreme dieting, and normalizes self-destructive patterns. Eating disorders are among the most

serious mental health conditions, carrying the second-highest mortality rate of any mental illness - second only to opioid use disorder. When online platforms amplify content that worsens these illnesses, the consequences can be devastating.

Young people deserve safer online experiences, ones that do not actively expose them to content known to cause harm. Unfortunately, social media companies have repeatedly demonstrated that they are not able to adequately self-monitor or mitigate these risks. The scale and design of modern platforms make voluntary oversight insufficient. Federal legislation is necessary to establish a clear duty of care, requiring companies to take meaningful steps to protect young users from foreseeable harms.

KOSA represents an important and carefully considered step toward that goal that prioritizes the safety and well-being of minors, provides parents and guardians with meaningful tools to protect their children, and improves transparency around how algorithms and design choices affect young users.

Thank you for recognizing the urgent need to encourage swift federal action to pass the Senate version of KOSA. This joint resolution sends a strong and important message that Alaska stands with families, educators, healthcare providers, and youth advocates across the country who are calling for safer digital environments for children and adolescents. Thank you for your leadership in supporting the health and well-being of Alaska's young people.

Sincerely,



Jess Rude
Executive Director
Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance (AKEDA)