

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** Michael Bucy  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2026 11:01 AM  
**To:** Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HJR 28 and S.1748 – Kids Online Safety Act

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**From:** Lance Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2026 2:36 PM  
**To:** House Education <House.Education@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Michael Bucy <[REDACTED]> Trevor Storrs [REDACTED] Victoria Kildal  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support for HJR 28 and S.1748 – Kids Online Safety Act

Reps. Himschoot, Story, and members of the House Education Committee:

The Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA) supports HJR 28 - Support Kids Online Safety Act, currently before the House Education Committee, which urges Congress to pass federal legislation protecting children online. In alignment with this resolution, ABHA strongly supports the passage of S.1748, the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), during this session of the 119th Congress, and we urge the President to sign this important legislation into law once it reaches his desk.

Every day, behavioral health providers across Alaska witness the growing impact that online platforms have on the mental health and well-being of young people. While the internet can offer valuable opportunities for learning, connection, and creativity, many platforms are deliberately engineered to maximize engagement in ways that can harm children and adolescents.

S.1748 appropriately addresses this problem by establishing a “duty of care” for online platforms that serve minors. This legislation is not primarily about regulating speech or limiting lawful content. Rather, it focuses on how platforms design and operate their services—particularly the algorithms, recommendation systems, and engagement tools that intentionally capture and hold young users’ attention.

Too often, these design choices lead children into cycles of harmful exposure, including bullying, body-shaming, self-harm content, suicidal ideation, sexual predation, drug promotion, and other damaging material. Behavioral health professionals increasingly recognize that these platform dynamics can worsen anxiety, depression, loneliness, and other mental health challenges among youth.

By requiring platforms to take reasonable steps to mitigate foreseeable harms to minors, the Kids Online Safety Act represents an important and balanced step forward. The bill promotes greater accountability, transparency, and safety-by-design practices without preventing young people from accessing the positive benefits of digital spaces.

The Alaska Behavioral Health Association believes that protecting the mental health of children and adolescents must be a national priority. Establishing clear expectations that online services must consider the well-being of young users is both common sense and urgently needed.

For these reasons, ABHA strongly urges the House Education Committee to advance HJR 28 to support the passage of S.1748. Doing so will help ensure that digital platforms are designed with the safety and well-being of our nation's children in mind.

Sincerely,  
Alaska Behavioral Health Association

Lance E Johnson, Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Behavioral Health Association  
P.O. Box 771876, Eagle River, Alaska 99577  
(907) 726-4952  
[www.akbha.org](http://www.akbha.org)

