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Attorney General Brown Joins Bipartisan Coalition Urging Congress to Pass Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA)

BALTIMORE, MD (November 19, 2024) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown has joined a coalition of 32 attorneys general calling upon Congressional leadership to, before the end of the year, pass the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) to protect children from online harm. In a [letter](#), the coalition emphasized the urgent need to address the growing crisis of youth mental health linked to social media use, with studies showing minors spend more than five hours daily online. The letter urges Congress to maintain the provision in KOSA that guarantees it would not preempt state laws that provide stronger protections. This would establish baseline protections for all American youth, while still allowing Maryland to put strong safeguards in place.

“Protecting children from the dangers of social media overload must be easier for parents and guardians to access, understand, and use,” said **Attorney General Brown**. “The risk of children becoming addicted to their phones or tablets is very real, and it’s crucial that we provide caregivers with the tools they need to effectively protect their children.”

The attorneys general highlighted several key provisions of KOSA that would enhance online protections for minors:

- **Mandatory default safety settings:** Requiring platforms to automatically enable their strongest safety protections for minors rather than burying these features behind opt-in screens;
- **Addiction prevention:** Allowing young users and their parents to disable manipulative design features and algorithmic recommendations that keep children endlessly scrolling; and
- **Parental empowerment:** Providing parents with new tools to identify harmful behaviors and improved capabilities to report dangerous content.

This push for federal legislation comes as many state attorneys general offices launched investigations and lawsuits against major social media platforms for their targeting of underage users. In October 2023, Attorney General Brown filed a lawsuit against Meta alleging that the company violated the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) in its collection and use of children’s data on its platforms.

In sending the letter, Attorney General Brown joins the attorneys general of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming.

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