



November 13, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chairwoman
Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sen. Cantwell, Sen. Cruz, Rep. McMorris Rodgers, and Rep. Pallone:

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) and the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) commend you for championing the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) and for your broader leadership to better protect children online. CoSN is a professional association for school district technology leaders that advocates for equitable and accessible technology use in K-12 education. NSPRA is an organization dedicated to building support for education through responsible communications, representing school communicators across North America.

We strongly urge you to complete work on KOSA during the lame duck session. As you continue work on the measure, we recommend three key improvements that would make the proposed law even more effective for school communities.

First, we urge you to require social media platforms to establish a clear, efficient verification process for public school district accounts. The lack of such a process has led to widespread impersonation and misinformation in school communities. This verification system could be streamlined by leveraging existing U.S. Department of Education school district identification codes paired with confidential school specific information, making implementation straightforward for both platforms and schools.

Second, KOSA should require covered social media platforms to respond promptly to school safety concerns and individual harms, including credible threats that affect entire school communities. While the current draft includes important reporting mechanisms for individual harms, schools need guaranteed rapid response times when facing broader safety threats that could impact hundreds or thousands of students.

Third, we ask that the measure direct the U.S. Department of Education to provide comprehensive guidance for schools implementing these new protections. This guidance should specifically address how schools can effectively utilize the verification process and reporting mechanisms to help their students use covered platforms in safe and in healthy ways.

School districts are on the front lines of combating online harms to students, but they need both support from Congress and greater cooperation from social media platforms. As you negotiate a possible final conference report, these improvements to KOSA would give districts the tools they need to respond swiftly to online threats and maintain trusted communication channels with their communities.

On behalf of school leaders working to create a safe and productive learning environment, we strongly encourage you to champion these improvements in the final version of KOSA. Our nation's students deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Keith Krueger
Chief Executive Officer
CoSN

Barbara M. Hunter, APR
Executive Director
NSPRA

cc: U.S. Senate; U.S. House of Representatives