

# U.S. Sen. Baldwin: Joins colleagues in introducing comprehensive legislation to protect kids online

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) joined Democratic and Republican colleagues in introducing the *Kids Online Safety Act*, comprehensive bipartisan legislation to protect children online and hold Big Tech accountable.

“Big Tech has proven time and again that they will put profits ahead of the safety of our kids and we have seen the devastating toll it has taken on our children’s mental and physical well-being,” **said Senator Baldwin.** “Parents and families are demanding action, and I am proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to protect our kids from the harmful effects of online platforms and ensure parents have the tools they need to safeguard their children.”

The *Kids Online Safety Act* provides young people and parents with the tools, safeguards, and transparency they need to protect against online harms. The bill requires social media platforms to put the well-being of children first, ensuring an environment that is safe by default. The legislation requires independent audits by experts and academic researchers to ensure that social media platforms are taking meaningful steps to address risks to kids.

The *Kids Online Safety Act*:

- Requires that social media platforms provide minors with options to protect their information, disable addictive product features, and opt out of algorithmic recommendations. Platforms would be required to enable the strongest settings by default.
- Gives parents new controls to help support their children and identify

harmful behaviors, and provides parents and children with a dedicated channel to report harms to kids to the platform.

- Creates a responsibility for social media platforms to prevent and mitigate harms to minors, such as promotion of suicide, eating disorders, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, and unlawful products for minors (e.g. gambling and alcohol).
- Requires social media platforms to perform an annual independent audit that assesses the risks to minors, their compliance with this legislation, and whether the platform is taking meaningful steps to prevent those harms.
- Provides academic and public interest organizations with access to critical datasets from social media platforms to foster research regarding harms to the safety and well-being of minors.

This legislation is led by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and is also cosponsored by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Steve Daines (R-MT), Gary Peters (D-MI), Marco Rubio (R-FL), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Todd Young (R-IN), Chris Coons (D-DE), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Mark Warner (D-VA), Roger Marshall (R-KS), Peter Welch (D-VT), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Jim Risch (R-ID), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Katie Britt (R-AL), Bob Casey (D-PA), Rick Scott (R-FL), Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), and John Cornyn (R-TX).

The *Kids Online Safety Act* is supported by hundreds of advocacy and technology groups, including Common Sense Media, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Compass, Eating Disorders Coalition, Fairplay, Mental Health America, and Digital Progress Institute.

One-page summary of the bill can be found [here](#).

Full text of the Senate bill can be found [here](#).

An online version of this release is available [here](#).