

A BILL TO BAN ALL SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Article I: Children under 16 are prohibited from creating using or accessing social media platforms within the United States except for the following limited circumstances:
- 1) educational purposes explicitly verified by a school or an educational institution; and 2) verified health-related needs as determined by a licensed healthcare provider. Social media platforms shall implement robust age-verification systems to prevent users under the age of 16 from creating accounts or accessing their services
- Article II: The purpose of this Bill is to protect children's mental and emotional well-being by addressing the following concerns:
- A. Social media platforms expose children to harmful content, including cyberbullying, inappropriate material and online predators.
 - B. Excessive screen time associated with social media use negatively affects cognitive, emotional and social development.
 - C. Children under 16 are particularly vulnerable to these risks due to their developing cognitive and emotional maturity.
- Article III: This bill will become effective on January 1, 2026.
- Article IV: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation. Platforms found in violation of this act will face penalties, including fines of up to \$10,000 per violation, and additional penalties as determined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- Article V: All laws in conflict with this legislation shall hereby be declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

Diocese of Brooklyn