



The Honorable John Thune

Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer

Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson

Speaker of the House
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

House Minority Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

We write as a coalition of organizations that strongly opposed the AI moratorium in the budget reconciliation bill and remain dedicated to preserving the rights of the states to act in the best of interests of children, families, and the public interest in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). After widespread, bipartisan public outcry from [45 state attorneys general, a bi-partisan group of 260 state legislators, 4 in 5 of Americans](#) (including [60,000+ petition signatures](#)), [17 Republican governors, hundreds](#) of civil society organizations, and members of Congress crossing the entire political spectrum, the proposed 10-year AI state law enforcement moratorium was removed.

We are deeply concerned by ongoing efforts to revive the moratorium via legislation or the administration's forthcoming AI Action Plan. We urge congressional leadership to support families in this evolving AI landscape and ensure they can continue to rely on the efforts of State Attorneys General to enforce AI safety protections.

The AI revolution requires the attention of lawmakers at all levels of government to ensure kids and teens are protected from harm — both today and in the future. That obligation to safety requires preserving the fundamental right of states to respond to risks swiftly and to continue their efforts to establish a wide range of consumer protection laws. In a 99-1 vote, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to respect the rights of states and the needs of children and families. That was the right choice; Congress must not backtrack now.

Throughout the decades-long rise of the technology sector, Congress has struggled to keep pace, even as social media inflicts irreparable harm in pursuit of profit and AI becomes embedded in nearly every aspect of life. Policymakers at all levels have both the responsibility and opportunity to ensure safe innovation of new technology. And while Congress has been slow to respond to emerging harms, in contrast, states have stepped up to pass laws, not to block innovation, but to safeguard kids online and defend the fundamental rights of their residents.

Given the known risks of this fast-developing and still emerging technology and the critical role states have played in addressing them, we oppose any effort to impose a moratorium on state AI laws. AI safety starts with measures to ensure the safe development of AI systems and products,

requiring vigilance on the part of all policymakers to protect kids from [manipulative AI chatbot companions](#), [online algorithmic feeds](#) that prey on teens' insecurities and [amplify harmful content](#), and ['nudification'](#) tools profiting from the gross invasions of children's privacy to create deepfake nude images.

AI safety means:

- **Risk-based audits and transparency measures** to develop AI systems that are safe by design and ensure that implemented safeguards are effective.
- **Pre- and post-deployment testing** to ensure AI models function safely before they reach the public and continue to be monitored after deployment, a standard approach in sectors like pharmaceuticals and automotive safety, where ongoing evaluation is critical to protecting consumers.
- **Strong privacy laws** updated to expand kids' and families' control over what they say or share with AI systems – ensuring their data, likeness, and original content aren't used without consent.
- **Safety by design principles** to ensure AI products used by kids – social media, AI companions, and AI tutors – are created with kids' well-being in mind, effective, and purpose-built.
- **Safeguards for automated decision-making systems**, including the right to an explanation when consequential decisions are made by AI and guaranteed access to a human review process, especially in sensitive areas like education, healthcare, and employment.
- **Liability frameworks** that ensure developers and deployers of high-risk AI tools can be held accountable – not just users employing AI for harm – when their systems cause harm or violate consumer protection laws.
- **Whistleblower protections** to empower those inside companies to speak up before harm reaches the public.

All laws furthering the safe development and deployment of AI, including civil, criminal, preventative, and responsive, are necessary to respond to the existing and emergent harms supercharged by AI. Instituting a moratorium on existing and potential state AI laws would undermine the layered, proactive approach we need to keep kids safe in the AI era.

Building AI with ethics and responsibility by design is essential to earning the public trust that is key to broad adoption and continued innovation. Smart regulations steer AI development in ways that benefit the public interest, national security, and global competitiveness – not solely for profit. Federal action to protect kids, families, and all consumers is welcome, and we are ready to work with you on meaningful solutions – but it must not come at the expense of states' constitutional authority to protect their residents.

Sincerely,

Common Sense Media
Encode AI
National Center on Sexual Exploitation
Young People's Alliance
Fairplay

3Strands Global Foundation
35 Mile Foundation
Access Now
Accountable Tech
AI for Education
AI Now Institute
All4Ed
All Girls Allowed
Alliance to Counter Crime Online
Alliance to End Human Trafficking
American Association for Justice
American Federation of Teachers
American Psychological Association
ANEW Life International, Inc
Annalee's Hope-Protect Kids Online
Awaken
Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz, PLLC
Bark Technologies
Beauty from Ashes Ministry
Becca Schmill Foundation
Better Tech Project
Breaking Generational Cycles
Buckets Over Bullying
C.A. Goldberg PLLC
Carol L. Hepburn PS
Center for Accessible Technology
Center for AI and Digital Policy
Center for Digital Democracy
Center for Humane Technology
Center for Youth and AI
Chains Interrupted
Children's Advocacy Institute, University San Diego School of Law
Communications Workers of America
Community Campaign Against Human Trafficking - SouthShore
Consortium for School Networking
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
Consumer Watchdog
Council of Catholic Women
Courage California
David's Legacy Foundation
Dear Christian Parent Substack
Defend Young Minds
Design It For Us
Devin J. Norring Foundation
Digital Childhood Alliance
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Economic Security California Action
Economic Security Project Action

Edith's House
EdTech Law Center
EdTrust
Emily Harrison Consulting
Emmy's Champions
Englyn Roberts Foundation 'Can We Talk'
Enough Is Enough
Equality Now
Erik's Cause
Esperanza Events & Consulting
Four Norms
Future of Music Coalition
Gary Marcus, Author of *Marcus on AI*
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Global Hope 365
Grace McComas Memorial
Guided Purposes LLC
Hach Rose Schirripa & Cheverie LLP
Heads Up Phones Down
Heat Initiative
Hispanic Federation
<https://socialmediaharms.org>
Hummingbody
Impact4Scale
InnovateEDU
Issue One
Joint Family
Justice Defense Fund
Justice Restoration Center
Kairos Action
KIDS TOO
Liberty Law, Inc.
Love Like Mason
Love Never Fails Us
Lynn's Warriors
MAMA: Mothers Against Media Addiction
Marsh Law Firm PLLC
Matthew E. Minor Awareness Foundation
Mentari
Migrant Digital Defense
Mōhuman
Music Artists Coalition
Music Managers Forum-US
National Association of Housing Cooperatives
National Consumers League
National Digital Inclusion Alliance
National Independent Talent Organization
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New America's Open Technology Institute

New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking
North Carolina Stop Human Trafficking
No Trafficking Zone
NTEN
Nurses United Against Human Trafficking
Oakland Privacy
Oregon Consumer League
P Street
Paradigm Shift Training and Consulting
Parent Coalition for Student Privacy
ParentsSOS
ParentsTogether Action
Parents Who Fight
Paving the Way Foundation
Pointer Adventures
Pornography Is Not Education
Project STAND
Protect Children, Suojellaan Lapsia ry
Protect Young Eyes
Public Citizen
Raven
Reading Public Library
Reconnect Nashoba Valley
Representative Doug Fiefia, Utah House of Representatives
Representative Monique Priestley, Vermont General Assembly
Rescuing Hope
Resiliency Foundation
Rights4Girls
Saniah's Story
SAVE-Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
scaleLIT
Schools Beyond Screens
Scrolling 2 Death
Selah Freedom
Seventh Planet, Inc.
Sexual Violence Prevention Association
Shared Hope International
Shield North Carolina
Skull Games Solutions
Smartphone Free Childhood US
Social Media Victims' Law Center
Speaking of Social
Students Engaged (SEAT)
Sudbury for Digital Balance
Surcando La Historia, inc.
Survivor Leader Network of San Diego
TechEquity
Tech Goes Home
Tech Justice Law Project

The Haba Law Firm, P.A.
The Institute for Survivor Care
The McKenna Way
The O'Connell House, Inc.
The Stop Trafficking Project
The Tech Oversight Project
Thriving in Freedom
TJP Advocacy
Transparency Coalition
Turning Life On
UltraViolet
UnidosUS
Unite for Safe Social Media
United Abolitionists, Inc.
Victims2Survivors-US
Victoria Galy, Advocate and Survivor
Walk Her Home
Watchmen Action
We RISE, USA
Wealth Management Ministries-Prevention Works Joint Task Force and Coalition
Welcoming America
William E. Morris Institute for Justice
World Without Exploitation
Yellowstone Human Trafficking Task Force
You Belong, LLC