Design It For Us Coalition | Kids Online Safety Act Overview

Who is Design it for us:

🔎 Design It For Us is a youth-led coalition that advocates for safer online platforms and social media. Our new coalition aims to drive and achieve key policy reforms to protect kids, teens, and young adults online through the mobilization of youth activists, leaders, and voices.
Learn more about Design It For Us

The Problem:

⚠️Young people are concerned about the addictiveness of social media, unchecked algorithms pushing kids/teens into rabbit holes, and dangerous content promoting eating disorders and suicide. The Surgeon General has been sounding the alarm about the youth mental health crisis fueled by social media and algorithms. But as digital natives, we live in a fully online world. Our social life, the content we consume, the games we play, and even the friends we make happen on social media. We experience both the harms and benefits of social media and online platforms, and we know firsthand that the status quo is not sustainable.

What young people think:

📲**We understand this is a nuanced position**. **We believe that regulation is urgently needed to protect young people _by design_ and prevent the algorithmic proliferation of harmful content in order to allow us to reap the benefits of these platforms.** Banning us from the platforms is not the answer. But one thing we all agree on is that these platforms have, in some way, harmed us or our friends and family.

Why KOSA:

The Kids Online Safety Act:

1. Creates a **duty of care** for social media platforms, **requiring companies by law** to prevent and mitigate content that promotes suicidal behaviors, eating disorders, substance use, sexual exploitation, advertisements for tobacco and alcohol, and more.
2. Requires social media platforms to provide children and adolescents with options to **protect their information, disable addictive product features, and opt out of algorithmic recommendations**. Platforms are required to enable the **strongest settings** by default.
3. Gives **parents new tools** to help support their children and provide them with a dedicated **reporting channel to raise issues** (such as harassment or threats) on the platforms.

The Kids Online Safety Act is a start, it is not a silver bullet. More needs to be done to hold Big Tech accountable and protect kids and teens online. Design It For Us supports other measures like COPPA 2.0, the Kids PRIVACY Act, and at the state level, the Age Appropriate Design Codes.

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