



**Testimony of Zamaan Qureshi,
Co-Founder, Director of Campaigns and Policy at Design It For Us**

Senate Executive: AI and Social Media Subcommittee Hearing
April 10, 2026

Chair Cunningham, Vice Chair Castro, and members of the Senate Executive Subcommittee on AI and Social Media. Thank you for inviting me to testify. We are pleased to see the Subcommittee holding this important hearing on an issue that matters deeply to my generation.

My name is Zamaan Qureshi, I'm 23 years old, and I am the Co-Founder and Director of Campaigns and Policy at Design It For Us, a coalition of over 500 young people advocating for safer online spaces for our generation. I grew up in Hinsdale, Illinois, where I attended elementary through high school. And during this formative time, I saw how social media companies design harmful products for young people with virtually no guardrails. Our generation knows the consequences too well, and we can't wait any longer to regulate how these companies operate at their core.

Meta purports its Instagram Teen Accounts as creating age-appropriate experiences — yet our research found otherwise. Our *Scary Feeds* report found that five out of five test teen accounts were algorithmically recommended sexual content. Our *Missing The Mark* report found that 37% of 13-15-year-old users experienced unsafe content or unwanted messages on a weekly basis.

Social media companies are facing a reckoning. Verdicts in California and New Mexico, the latter case where I testified as the final witness, found Meta and YouTube liable for failures to design safe products for young people. The evidence is damning: a YouTube employee described the platform's goal as "viewer addiction," and a Meta employee referenced "500,000 victims per day" of sexually inappropriate messages.

These lawsuits should be a wake-up call that the status quo isn't working. That is why Design It For Us has worked to pass Age-Appropriate Design Codes in other states, getting bills signed into law in California, Maryland, and Vermont. These bills address the root of the problem: Big Tech's addictive business model — push notifications, endless scroll, beauty filters, like counts, and addictive algorithms. Age-Appropriate Design Codes target social media products at the point of design to compel companies to create truly age-appropriate experiences. The Ninth Circuit's recent ruling in the AADC case cleared a constitutional path for this approach in California. We've been proud to support SB 3241, the Illinois Age-Appropriate Design Code, and are disappointed it is not being considered in this hearing. We believe it remains the best approach for addressing social media's harms.

As artificial intelligence poses new opportunities and risks to young people, the Committee should also move forward with AI accountability legislation. SB 3261 would ensure that the largest AI developers disclose potential risks to children, are transparent about protection strategies for young users, and subject those assessments to independent third-party audits — rather than allowing companies to grade their own homework. These are the basic safeguards we missed with social media. SB 3261 builds on the regulatory floor set by new laws passed last year: the RAISE Act in New York and SB-53 in California, both of which Design It For Us was proud to support.

There is still more work to do. Lawmakers should hear the reverberations of the social media trial verdicts as they consider next steps. Young people are crying out for change. Thank you.