

2023 PTA LEGISLATIVE ASK: DIGITAL SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Ensuring a safe and positive digital experience for all children and families!

PTA urges the 118th Congress to pass legislation that:

- ✓ Strengthens online privacy protections for children and youth.
- ✓ Expands broadband access and enhances digital infrastructure to ensure equity.
- ✓ Increases awareness, including research, of the impact of technology on children and strengthens digital literacy skills for children and families.
- ✓ Addresses threats to the safety and well-being of children that can be cultivated online, such as cyberbullying, exploitation, criminal activity and violence.

Issue Overview

A founding principle of PTA's mission is to promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth. PTA believes that technology can enhance the learning experience and foster creativity and connectedness among students, educators and families. However, technology can also give rise to digital environments that could be harmful to children and youth.

- ✓ 78% of Americans believe it's difficult for parents to keep children safe when they are online, and 92% agree that it's more important now than ever before for parents to talk to their children about cyber safety.
- ✓ Nearly half of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 (46%) report ever experiencing at least one of six cyberbullying behaviors, with older teen girls particularly likely to say they experience multiple types of online harassment.
- ✓ Black teens are about twice as likely as Hispanic or White teens to say they think their race or ethnicity made them a target of online abuse.
- ✓ 48.7% of LGBTQ students have experienced cyberbullying.
- ✓ Access to technology and high-speed internet connection at home varies greatly with greater challenges faced by rural families and families with lower household incomes.



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PTA's Recommendations

PTA supports efforts to ensure a safe and positive digital experience for all children and families, fostering learning and healthy lifestyles for all children and equipping them with the technological literacy and access to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

PTA urges members of Congress to:

- ✓ **Reintroduce and co-sponsor the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act**
- ✓ **Reintroduce and co-sponsor the PROTECT Kids Act**
- ✓ **Reintroduce and co-sponsor the Protecting the Information of our Vulnerable Children and Youth Act**
- ✓ **Reintroduce and co-sponsor the Safe Social Media Act**
- ✓ **Co-sponsor the Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Act (S. 394)**

Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA 2.0) would modernize the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) to better protect student's educational records and the collection of information gathered online, including requiring greater transparency from internet companies, requiring consent and ability to erase personal information online, strengthen cyber security standards, ban advertising targeting children and establish a Youth Privacy and Marketing Division within the FTC to address youth privacy and marketing online.



PROTECT Kids Act would raise the age for parental consent protections for children online from under 13 to under 16, extend all protections for children online to mobile applications and allow parents to request deletion of their child's personal information from a website, online service or mobile app.

Protecting the Information of our Vulnerable Children and Youth Act would prohibit behavioral ad targeting of children and teens and establish a Youth Privacy and Marketing Division within the FTC to address youth privacy and marketing online.

Safe Social Media Act would require the FTC and the CDC to study the use of social media platforms among individuals under age 18, including the mental health impact of social media on youth.

Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Act would provide grants to state and local educational agencies, public libraries and qualified nonprofit organizations to develop programs that teach students how to consume technology and digital media safely, responsibly, respectfully and effectively

Questions?

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