

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

December 4th, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building 254
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
Dirksen Senate Office Building 512
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and Members of the Commerce Committee,

We the undersigned organizations and individuals write to you today to express our strong support for S. 3074, the Eyes on the Board Act. This legislation, introduced by Senators Cruz, Budd, and Capito, is critical for protecting the health, safety, and education of American children by limiting their access to harmful and addictive social media during the school day.

The Eyes on the Board Act would prohibit the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) E-Rate program, which partly funds high-speed internet access in schools, from subsidizing children's access to social media on networks, devices, and services. To promote parental empowerment and transparency, the bill would further require schools to adopt a screen time policy as a condition of receiving subsidies and require the FCC to make schools' screen time and internet safety plans publicly available. These steps would protect children from toxic content and excessive screen time and ensure that school broadband subsidies are supporting meaningful educational outcomes and not undermining children's safety and focus.

This legislation is especially crucial considering the FCC's recent decision to fund unsupervised Internet access during students' bus rides to and from school.¹ Senators Cruz, Budd, and Capito have aptly recognized the risks² associated with this controversial expansion of the E-Rate program, and their legislation is necessary to protect children's best interests.

¹ *Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, Declaratory Ruling, WC Docket No. 13-184 (rel. Oct. 25, 2023), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-84A1.pdf>.

² *Sen Cruz, Rep. McMorris Rodgers Urge FCC Commissioners to Reject Rosenworcel Plan to Subsidize TikTok on School Buses*, Press Release, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Sept. 27, 2023), <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2023/9/sen-cruz-rep-mcmorris-rodgers-urge-fcc-commissioner-to-reject-rosenworcel-plan-to-subsidize-tiktok-on-school-buses>.

This bill is a win for kids, parents, schools, and common sense. We wholeheartedly urge senators to support the bill and request that the leadership of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee advance the bill at the next committee markup.

Sincerely,

Concerned Women for America

American College of Pediatricians

American Principles Project

American Association of Christian Schools

America First Policy Institute

American Family Project, Inc.

Association of Christian School International

Bull Moose Project

Citizens for Renewing America

Coalition for Jewish Values

Eagle Forum

Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

Family Policy Alliance

Heritage Action

Parents Defending Education Action

The Institute for Family Studies

New York Young Republican Club

Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America

Clare Morell, The Ethics and Public Policy Center