

Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman, Senate HELP Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 5, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Chairman Pallone, and Ranking Members Burr and McMorris Rodgers,

As researchers and scholars of child psychology, child development, and digital and social media, we are writing to you **in support of S.971 and H.R. 2161**, the Children and Media Research Advancement Act (CAMRA). CAMRA is a bipartisan effort to fund a long overdue research effort through the NIH to study the longitudinal effects of technology use on child development.

Children are spending more and more time using technology and at younger ages. Industry is rapidly matching the demand, but research on the impact of these new tech products on kids is severely behind. Much of this research has yet to be conducted because of a lack of federal funding. The research that has been conducted is often low-quality, lacking the expensive tools and longitudinal methods needed to truly understand our children's digital lives. We need the rigor of NIH-backed scientific studies so that policymakers, industry leaders, pediatricians, and parents are better informed and better equipped to navigate questions about children's media use.

Unfortunately, families are trying to maneuver in an essentially unknown digital environment. Children often see inappropriate content and advertising, as well as false information, while their behavioral data are collected to track and market more to them in the future. Although we encourage parents to limit excessive screen time and to closely monitor their children's online activity, this can be a difficult challenge in an increasingly digital age, particularly when the majority of tech products are not designed for children. CAMRA would ensure that we have the right answers to help mitigate some of these concerns and would provide a blueprint for industry to keep kids' health and well-being at the forefront of their product development.

Our current knowledge is inadequate and dangerous for our kids. Lack of sufficient research enables tech companies to push products on an already vulnerable population. It also inhibits policymakers to strategically implement laws that protect kids online. And it leaves parents in the dark on how best to help their children navigate our complex online environment. **We urge you to pass CAMRA now, on behalf of current and future generations of young tech users.**

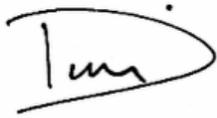
Sincerely,



Dr. Dimitri Christakis, MD, MPH, George Adkins Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington



Dr. David L. Hill, MD, FAAP, Hospitalist Pediatrician at Goldsboro Pediatrics and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, School of Medicine



Dr. Dar Meshi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Department of Advertising & Public Relations, University of Michigan



Dr. Jenny Radesky, MD, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Michigan



Dr. Eva Telzer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

cc:

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

bcc:

Senate HELP Committee Members
House Energy and Commerce Committee Members