

December 15, 2022

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman, Senate Commerce Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce
Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, House Energy and
Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Cantwell and Pallone and Ranking Members Wicker and McMorris Rodgers,

We are writing to indicate our strong support for [a recent bipartisan proposal](#) to pass a limited set of online privacy protections for children and teens before Congress adjourns this year.

Thanks to your efforts, the 117th Congress has made remarkable bipartisan progress in developing online data privacy and platform accountability policies that are critical to the mental health and well-being of children and teens and of deep concern to other vulnerable populations and to online users across political parties. And yet, despite enormous efforts from each of you and from many of your Committee colleagues, with few legislative days remaining, this Congress risks failing to establish needed guardrails on large technology companies. This failure will come at great cost and real pain to many, but especially to kids and teens, and their families.

We have been consistent throughout this process that we believe that a strong comprehensive national privacy policy is needed. And, at the same time, recognizing the challenge in achieving that goal, we have also consistently said that Congress, at a bare minimum, should pass legislation to protect children and teens online this year.

It is in that vein that we write to you as advocates for children and teens to encourage you to use the concept that [Senators Markey, Cassidy, Blumenthal and Lummis proposed](#) yesterday: adopt four key provisions that both the Commerce Committee and the Energy Committee have already approved on a bipartisan basis, to negotiate an agreement now – before time expires in this Congress – as a downpayment on a larger privacy agreement. These provisions would make a meaningful difference for young online users. The longer the delay in enacting new protection the more harm they will experience.

We recognize that this would be a compromise for all involved in this important and lengthy process, including for us. And we continue to support efforts to reach an agreement on comprehensive national privacy and on safety by design legislation if that is achievable. But given all that we have learned about online harms to young people and the national youth mental health crisis and its connections to social media and technology use, Congress must act now to protect kids online.

Thank you again for your focus and hard work on privacy and platform issues this Congress, including on online harms to kids and teens. **We stand ready to support you now on a limited agreement to protect kids and teens and to work with you in the next Congress to make the internet a healthier and safer place for everyone.**

Sincerely,

Common Sense Media
FairPlay
Center for Digital Democracy