

January 28, 2022

Hon. Maria Cantwell  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell,

As advocates for the well-being of children and families, we are writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Alvaro Bedoya to serve as a commissioner for the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.

We appreciate the time and attention the Committee has dedicated over the past few years, and especially in 2021, toward better understanding how to update and reform existing laws to address the harms children and families experience through technology platforms. We strongly believe that Mr. Bedoya would be a strong ally of the Committee in this critical endeavor.

A father of two toddlers and married to a child psychologist, Mr. Bedoya has identified kids' privacy and technology's impact on children as a top priority. At his confirmation hearing, as you will recall, he pledged that, if confirmed, he would work to help "parents trying to make sure their kids aren't hurt by the apps they use online," and specifically indicated that he wanted to work across the aisle with Commissioner Christine Wilson to protect children's privacy.

Mr. Bedoya's experience and knowledge clearly demonstrates that he can make a real difference in improving the health and well-being of kids while serving at the FTC. He brings years of experience to the privacy and technology field and is highly regarded by not only his colleagues in academia but also other members of the FTC and people he has worked with over the years. As the first chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology & the Law, he helped run some of the first oversight hearings into the privacy practices of tech giants like Apple, Facebook, Google, and Netflix. He was also one of the first to warn the public of the risks of new technologies, like facial recognition, and organized the [first full congressional hearing](#) on the risks presented by the technology.

Mr. Bedoya has consistently focused on how technology affects the most vulnerable among us, including victims of domestic abuse and low-income Americans. He identified the threat of stalking apps for victims of domestic abuse, and he [worked across the aisle](#) to stop them -- an effort that led to one of the [first major DOJ prosecutions](#) of a stalking app developer. He also partnered with civil rights groups to [successfully press Internet giants](#) to stop marketing payday loans to low-income people.

We believe that his experience and track record will make him an invaluable advocate for kids' privacy, the protection of kids and teens online, and for the protection of all consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and thank you again for your efforts to update and reform U.S. technology laws with an eye toward their impact on children and families. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee as your efforts go forward.

Sincerely,

Accountable Tech  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development  
Common Sense  
Consumer Federation of America  
Customer Commons  
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)  
Fairplay  
Fight for the Future  
Me2B Alliance  
Media Education Foundation  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
Parent Coalition for Student Privacy  
ParentsTogether  
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse  
Public Citizen  
Ranking Digital Rights  
UltraViolet  
U.S. PIRG