

GRIEVANCE LETTER OPPOSING THE KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT (KOSA)

(Strong-Language, Fully Expanded Public Grievance Packet)

To Whom It May Concern,

This grievance letter is submitted as a forceful objection to the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), a bill that—despite its marketed intentions—constitutes one of the most sweeping threats to civil liberties, free speech, personal privacy, and youth safety in modern digital policy history. KOSA is not a child protection measure. It is a censorship and surveillance framework dressed in protective language, constructed in a manner that mathematically guarantees the suppression of lawful speech, the erosion of equal protection, and the expansion of government intrusion into private life.

I. Unconstitutional Overreach

KOSA empowers state attorneys general to determine what constitutes “harmful” content, a categorically unconstitutional delegation of authority. The bill’s vague terminology creates an enforcement landscape ripe for abuse, allowing political actors to criminalize or suppress entire classes of speech. Historically, such language has enabled the erasure of LGBTQ+ resources, reproductive health information, racial justice education, and dissenting political speech. KOSA invites exactly these abuses.

II. Forced Identity Tracking

To identify minors and adults, platforms would be forced to implement intrusive age verification systems, including ID collection, biometric scanning, and identity broker surveillance. These systems are dangerous, unnecessary, and incompatible with fundamental rights to anonymous reading and expression. Every major cybersecurity and privacy expert warns these systems expose users to massive data harvest risk and government monitoring. This bill normalizes surveillance under the pretext of safety.

III. Suppression of Lifesaving Health and Safety Information

KOSA’s enforcement mechanisms would inevitably remove or restrict access to essential, evidence based resources related to mental health, reproductive autonomy, LGBTQ+ identity, and suicide prevention. The bill treats “content that could cause emotional distress” as inherently harmful, ignoring decades of clinical evidence showing that youth turn to online communities for stabilization and support. Removing these lifelines endangers vulnerable youth, increases isolation, and heightens suicide risk.

IV. Discriminatory and Unequal Impact

Because each state defines “harmful content” differently, youth in certain jurisdictions—particularly those in politically hostile or socially repressive environments—would lose access to entire categories of lawful, lifesaving resources. This constitutes a direct violation of equal protection principles by creating a fragmented, discriminatory information landscape.

V. Structural Failure to Address Actual Harms

KOSA does nothing to regulate data extraction, algorithmic manipulation, predatory advertising, or exploitative corporate practices that actually harm minors. Instead, the bill outsources censorship and surveillance mandates to private corporations, forcing them to over correct and suppress vast swaths of content. It solves none of the documented dangers while creating new ones that disproportionately target marginalized populations.

VI. Chilling Effect on Adults

Because platforms cannot realistically separate youth and adult content streams at scale, adults will also experience mass content suppression. This bill broadly restricts democratic discourse by enabling states to strong arm platforms into removing speech that merely contradicts political ideology. This chilling effect is not hypothetical—it is guaranteed by the design of the enforcement mechanism.

VII. Demand for Withdrawal

In light of the profound constitutional, ethical, psychological, and technological failures embedded in this legislation, I demand the immediate withdrawal, rejection, or full restructuring of KOSA. True online safety requires:

- Regulating exploitative data harvesting practices
- Funding mental health and crisis response programs
- Increasing platform transparency
- Restricting targeted advertising
- Supporting digital literacy education
- not government directed censorship and mass surveillance.

KOSA is fundamentally incompatible with a free society. It undermines constitutional rights, endangers vulnerable youth, expands state surveillance, suppresses lawful expression, and empowers political actors to target communities they disfavor. It cannot be ethically or legally justified in its current form.

I urge all policymakers, regulatory bodies, and civil rights organizations to reject KOSA unequivocally and pursue legislation that protects children without violating constitutional freedoms or endangering at risk populations.

Sincerely,

An Informed and Concerned Citizen