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AMENDMENT NO.

Calendar No.____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES-118th Cong., 1st Sess.

S.1409

To protect the safety of children on the internet.

Referred to the Committee on ______ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-

2 lowing:

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the

5 "Kids Online Safety Act".

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for

7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Duty of care.
- Sec. 4. Safeguards for minors.
- Sec. 5. Disclosure.
- Sec. 6. Transparency.
- Sec. 7. Independent research on social media and minors.

Sec. 8. Market research.

- Sec. 9. Age verification study and report.
- Sec. 10. Guidance.
- Sec. 11. Enforcement.
- Sec. 12. Kids online safety council.

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Sec. 13. Effective date.

Sec. 14. Rules of construction and other matters.

Sec. 15. Severability.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

3 (1) CHILD.—The term "child" means an indi4 vidual who is under the age of 13.

5 (2) COMPULSIVE USAGE.—The term "compul-6 sive usage" means any response stimulated by exter-7 nal factors that causes an individual to engage in re-8 petitive behavior reasonably likely to cause psycho-9 logical distress, loss of control, anxiety, or depres-10 sion.

11 (3) COVERED PLATFORM.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term "covered 13 platform" means an online platform, online 14 video game, messaging application, or video 15 streaming service that connects to the internet 16 and that is used, or is reasonably likely to be 17 used, by a minor.

18 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term "covered
19 platform" does not include—

20 (i) an entity acting in its capacity as
21 a provider of—

(I) a common carrier service subject to the Communications Act of
1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and all

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1	Acts amendatory thereof and supple-
2	mentary thereto;
3	(II) a broadband internet access
4	service (as such term is defined for
5	purposes of section 8.1(b) of title 47,
6	Code of Federal Regulations, or any
7	successor regulation);
8	(III) an email service;
9	(IV) a teleconferencing or video
10	conferencing service that allows recep-
11	tion and transmission of audio and
12	video signals for real-time communica-
13	tion, provided that—
14	(aa) is not an online plat-
15	form, including a social media
16	service or social network; and
17	(bb) the real-time commu-
18	nication is initiated by using a
19	unique link or identifier to
20	faciliate access; or
21	(V) a wireless messaging service
22	that is not a component of, or linked
23	to, an online platform, and where the
24	predominant or exclusive function of
25	the service is direct messaging con-

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1	sisting of text, photos, or videos that
2	are sent between devices by electronic
3	means where messages are shared
4	only between the sender and the re-
5	cipient, are only visible to the sender
6	and the recipient, and are not posted
7	publicly;
8	(ii) an organization not organized to
9	carry on business for its own profit or that
10	of its members;
11	(iii) any public or private preschool,
12	elementary, or secondary school, or any in-
13	stitution of vocational, professional, or
14	higher education;
15	(iv) a library (as defined in section
16	213(1) of the Library Services and Tech-
17	nology Act (20 U.S.C. 9122(1)));
18	(v) a news website or app where—
19	(I) the inclusion of video content
20	on the website or app is related to the
21	website or app's own gathering, re-
22	porting, or publishing of news content;
23	and
24	(II) the website or app is not
25	otherwise an online platform; or

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1	(vi) a product or service that pri-
2	marily functions as business-to-business
3	software.
4	(4) GEOLOCATION.—The term "geolocation"
5	means information sufficient to identify street name
6	and name of a city or town.
7	(5) INDIVIDUAL-SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO MI-
8	NORS.—
9	(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "individual-
10	specific advertising to minors" means adver-
11	tising or any other effort to market a product
12	or service that is directed to a specific minor or
13	a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to
14	a minor—
15	(i) based on—
16	(I) the personal data of—
17	(aa) the minor; or
18	(bb) a group of minors who
19	are similar in gender, age, in-
20	come level, race, or ethnicity to
21	the specific individual to whom
22	the product or service is mar-
23	keted;
24	(II) psychological profiling of a
25	minor or group of minors; or

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1	(III) a unique identifier of the
2	device; or
3	(ii) as a result of use by the minor,
4	access by any device of the minor, or use
5	by a group of minors who are similar to
6	the specific minor, of more than a single—
7	(I) website;
8	(II) online service;
9	(III) online application;
10	(IV) mobile application; or
11	(V) connected device
12	(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "individual-
13	specific advertising to minors" shall not in-
14	clude—
15	(i) advertising or marketing to an in-
16	dividual or the device of an individual in
17	response to the individual's specific request
18	for information or feedback, such as a mi-
19	nor's current search query;
20	(ii) contextual advertising, such as
21	when an advertisement is displayed based
22	on the content of the covered platform on
23	which the advertisement appears and does
24	not vary based on personal information re-
25	lated to the viewer;

(iii) processing personal information
 solely for measuring or reporting adver tising or content performance, reach, or
 frequency, including independent measure ment;

6 (C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in 7 subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit 8 a covered platform with actual knowledge or 9 knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objec-10 tive circumstances that an individual is under 11 the age of 17 from delivering advertising or 12 marketing that is age-appropriate for the indi-13 vidual involved and intended for a child or teen 14 audience (as applicable), so long as the covered 15 platform does not use any personal data other 16 than whether the user is under the age of 17 17 to deliver such advertising or marketing.

18 (6) KNOW OR KNOWS.—The term "know" or
19 "knows" means to have actual knowledge or knowl20 edge fairly implied on the basis of objective cir21 cumstances.

(7) MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER.—The term
"mental health disorder" has the meaning given the
term "mental disorder" in the Diagnostic and Sta-

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1	tistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders, 5th Edi-
2	tion (or the most current successor edition).
3	(8) MINOR.—The term "minor" means an indi-
4	vidual who is under the age of 17.
5	(9) ONLINE PLATFORM.—The term "online
6	platform" means any public-facing website, online
7	service, online application, or mobile application that
8	predominantly provides a community forum for user
9	generated content, such as sharing videos, images,
10	games, audio files, or other content, including a so-
11	cial media service, social network, or virtual reality
12	environment.
13	(10) ONLINE VIDEO GAME.—The term "online
14	video game" means a video game, including an edu-
15	cational video game, that connects to the internet
16	and that—
17	(A) allows a user to—
18	(i) create and upload content;
19	(ii) engage in microtransactions with-
20	in the game; or
21	(iii) communicate with other users; or
22	(B) incorporates minor-specific advertising.
23	(11) PARENT.—The term "parent" includes—
24	(A) a natural parent;
25	(B) a legal guardian; or

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1	(C) an individual with legal custody over a
2	minor.
.3	(12) PERSONAL DATA.—The term "personal
4	data" means information that identifies or is linked
5	or reasonably linkable to a particular minor, includ-
6	ing a consumer device identifier that is linked or
7	reasonably linkable to a minor.
8	(13) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYS-
9	TEM.—The term "personalized recommendation sys-
10	tem" means a fully or partially automated system
11	used to suggest, promote, or rank content, including
12	other users or posts, based on the personal data of
13	users.
14	(14) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.—The
15	term "sexual exploitation and abuse" means any of
16	the following:
17	(A) Coercion and enticement, as described
18	in section 2422 of title 18, United States Code.
19	(B) Child sexual abuse material, as de-
20	scribed in sections 2251, 2252, 2252A, and

21 2260 of title 18, United States Code.

(C) Trafficking for the production of images, as described in section 2251A of title 18,
United States Code.

1(D) Sex trafficking of children, as de-2scribed in section 1591 of title 18, United3States Code.

4 SEC. 3. DUTY OF CARE.

5 (a) PREVENTION OF HARM TO MINORS.—A covered 6 platform shall take reasonable measures in the design and 7 operation of any product, service, or feature that the cov-8 ered platform knows is used by minors to prevent and 9 mitigate the following harms to minors:

10 (1) Consistent with evidence-informed medical
11 information, the following mental health disorders:
12 anxiety, depression, eating disorders, substance use
13 disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

14 (2) Patterns of use that indicate or encourage15 addiction-like behaviors.

16 (3) Physical violence, online bullying, and har-17 assment of the minor.

18 (4) Sexual exploitation and abuse.

19 (5) Promotion and marketing of narcotic drugs
20 (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Sub21 stances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products,
22 gambling, or alcohol.

23 (6) Predatory, unfair, or deceptive marketing
24 practices, or other financial harms.

(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be
 construed to require a covered platform to prevent or pre clude—

4 (1) any minor from deliberately and independ5 ently searching for, or specifically requesting, con6 tent; or

7 (2) the covered platform or individuals on the
8 platform from providing resources for the prevention
9 or mitigation of the harms described in subsection
10 (a), including evidence-informed information and
11 clinical resources.

12 SEC. 4. SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.

13 (a) SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.—

14 (1) SAFEGUARDS.—A covered platform shall
15 provide an individual that the covered platform
16 knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to17 use safeguards to, as applicable—

18 (A) limit the ability of other individuals to19 communicate with the minor;

20 (B) prevent other users, whether registered
21 or not, from viewing the minor's personal data
22 collected by or shared on the covered platform,
23 in particular restricting public access to per24 sonal data;

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1	(C) limit features that increase, sustain, or
2	extend use of the covered platform by the
3	minor, such as automatic playing of media, re-
4	wards for time spent on the platform, notifica-
5	tions, and other features that result in compul-
6	sive usage of the covered platform by the minor;
7	(D) control personalized recommendation
8	systems, including the ability for a minor to
9	have at least 1 of the following options
10	(i) opt out of such personalized rec-
11	ommendation systems, while still allowing
12	the display of content based on a chrono-
13	logical format; or
14	(ii) limit types or categories of rec-
15	ommendations from such systems; and
16	(E) restrict the sharing of the geolocation
17	of the minor to other users on the platform and
18	provide notice regarding the tracking of the mi-
19	nor's geolocation.
20	(2) OPTIONS.—A covered platform shall provide
21	an individual that the covered platform knows is a
22	minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use options
23	to—

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1	(A) delete the minor's account and delete
2	any personal data collected from, or shared by,
3	the minor on the covered platform; or
4	(B) limit the amount of time spent by the
5	minor on the covered platform.
6	(3) DEFAULT SAFEGUARD SETTINGS FOR MI-
7	NORS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the
8	case of a user that the platform knows is a minor,
· 9:	the default setting for any safeguard described
10	under paragraph (1) shall be the option available on
11	the platform that provides the most protective level
12	of control that is offered by the platform over pri-
13	vacy and safety for that user.
14	(b) PARENTAL TOOLS.—
15	(1) TOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide
16	readily-accessible and easy-to-use settings for par-
17	ents to support an individual that the platform
18	knows is a minor with respect to the individual's use
19	of the platform.
20	(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The parental tools pro-
21	vided by a covered platform shall include—
22	(A) the ability to manage a minor's privacy
23	and account settings, including the safeguards
.24	and options established under subsection (a), in
25	a manner that allows parents to—

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1	(i) view the privacy and account set-
2	tings; and
3	(ii) in the case of a user that the plat-
4	form knows is a child, change and control
5	the privacy and account settings;
6	(B) the ability to restrict purchases and fi-
7	nancial transactions by the minor, where appli-
8	cable; and
9	(C) the ability to view metrics of total time
10	spent on the platform and restrict time spent
11	on the covered platform by the minor.
12	(3) NOTICE TO MINORS.—A covered platform
13	shall provide clear and conspicuous notice to an indi-
14	vidual that the platform knows is a minor when tools
15	described in this subsection are in effect and what
16	settings or controls have been applied.
17	(4) DEFAULT TOOLS.—A covered platform shall
18	provide that, in the case of a user that the platform
19	knows is a child, the tools described in this sub-
20	section shall be enabled by default.
21	(c) REPORTING MECHANISM.—
22	(1) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY PARENTS, MI-
23	NORS, AND SCHOOLS.—A covered platform shall pro-
24	vide—

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1	(A) a readily-accessible and easy-to-use
2	means to submit reports to the covered plat-
3	form of harms to a minor;
4	(B) an electronic point of contact specific
5	to matters involving harms to a minor; and
6	(C) confirmation of the receipt of such a
7	report and a means to track a submitted report.
8	(2) TIMING.—A covered platform shall establish
9	an internal process to receive and substantively re-
10	spond to such reports in a reasonable and timely
11	manner, but in no case later than—
12	(A) 10 days after the receipt of a report,
13	if, for the most recent calendar year, the plat-
14	form averaged more than 10,000,000 active
15	users on a monthly basis in the United States;
16	(B) 21 days after the receipt of a report,
17	if, for the most recent calendar year, the plat-
18	form averaged less than 10,000,000 active
19	users on a monthly basis in the United States;
20	and
21	(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A)
22	and (B), if the report involves an imminent
23	threat to the safety of a minor, as promptly as
24	needed to address the reported threat to safety.

1 (d) ADVERTISING OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTS.—A cov-2 ered platform shall not facilitate the advertising of nar-3 cotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled 4 Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gam-5 bling, or alcohol to an individual that the covered platform 6 knows is a minor.

7 (e) APPLICATION.—

8 (1) ACCESSIBILITY.—With respect to safe-9 guards and parental controls described under sub-10 sections (a) and (b), a covered platform shall pro-11 vide—

12 (A) information and control options in a 13 clear and conspicuous manner that takes into 14 consideration the differing ages, capacities, and 15 developmental needs of the minors most likely 16 to access the covered platform and does not en-17 courage minors or parents to weaken or disable 18 safeguards or parental controls;

19 (B) readily-accessible and easy-to-use con20 trols to enable or disable safeguards or parental
21 controls, as appropriate; and

(C) information and control options in the
same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides the product or service
used by minors and their parents.

1	(2) DARK PATTERNS PROHIBITION.—It shall be
2	unlawful for any covered platform to design, modify,
3	or manipulate a user interface of a covered platform
4	with the purpose or substantial effect of subverting
5	or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or
6	choice with respect to safeguards or parental con-
7	trols required under this section.
8	(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTIONNothing in
9	this section shall be construed to—
10	(A) prevent a covered platform from taking
11	reasonable measures to—
12	(i) block, detect, or prevent the dis-
13	tribution of unlawful, obscene, or other
14	harmful material to minors as described in
15	section 3(a); or
16	(ii) block or filter spam, prevent
17	criminal activity, or protect the security of
18	a platform or service;
19	(B) require the disclosure of a minor's
20	browsing behavior, search history, messages,
21	contact list, or other content or metadata of
22	their communications;
23	(C) prevent a covered platform from using
24	a personalized recommendation system to dis-

1	play content to a minor if the system only uses
2	information on
3	(i) the language spoken by the minor;
4	(ii) the geolocation of the minor; or
5	(iii) the minor's age; or
6	(D) prohibit a covered platform from inte-
7	grating its products or service with controls
8	from third-party systems, including operating
9	systems or gaming consoles, to meet the re-
10	quirements imposed under subsections (a) and
11	(b) relating to safeguards for minors and tools
12	for parents, provided that—
13	(i) the controls meet such require-
14	ments; and
15	(ii) the minor or parent is provided
16	sufficient notice of the integration and use
17	of the controls.
18	SEC. 5. DISCLOSURE.
19	(a) NOTICE.—
20	(1) REGISTRATION OR PURCHASE.—Prior to
21	registration or purchase of a covered platform by an
22	individual that the platform knows is a minor, the
23	platform shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-
24	to-understand

1	(A) notice of the policies and practices of
2	the covered platform with respect to personal
3	data and safeguards for minors;
4	(B) information about how to access the
5	safeguards and parental tools required under
6	section 4; and
7	(C) notice about whether the covered plat-
8	form uses or makes available to minors a prod-
9	uct, service, or feature, including any personal-
10	ized recommendation system, that poses any
11	heightened risk of harm to minors.
12	(2) NOTIFICATION.—
13	(A) NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—In
14	the case of an individual that a covered plat-
15	form knows is a child, the platform shall addi-
16	tionally provide information about the parental
17	tools and safeguards required under section 4
18	to a parent of the child and obtain verifiable
19	parental consent (as defined in section $1302(9)$
20	of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
21	(15 U.S.C. 6501(9))) from the parent prior to
22	the inital use of the covered platform by the
23	child.
24	(B) REASONABLE EFFORT.—A covered
25	platform shall be deemed to have satisfied the

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1 requirement described in subparagraph (A) if the covered platform is in compliance with the 2 3 requirements of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) to use 4 reasonable efforts (taking into consideration 5 6 available technology) to provide a parent with 7 the information described in subparagraph (A) 8 and to obtain verifiable parental consent as re-9 quired.

(3) CONSOLIDATED NOTICES.—A covered plat-10 11 form may consolidate the process for providing in-12 formation under this subsection and obtaining 13 verifiable parental consent or the consent of the 14 minor involved (as applicable) as required under this 15 subsection with its obligations to provide relevant 16 notice and obtain verifiable parental consent under 17 the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15) 18 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

(4) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms
in complying with the requirements of this section.
(b) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM.—A
covered platform that operates a personalized recommendation system shall set out in its terms and condi-

1 tions, in a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand2 manner—

3 (1) an overview of how such personalized rec4 ommendation system is used by the covered platform
5 to provide information to users of the platform who
6 are minors, including how such systems use the per7 sonal data of minors; and

8 (2) information about options for minors or 9 their parents to opt out of or control the personal-10 ized recommendation system (as applicable).

11 (c) Advertising and Marketing Information 12 and Labels.—

13 (1) INFORMATION AND LABELS.—A covered 14 platform that facilitates advertising aimed at users 15 that the platform knows are minors shall provide 16 clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand informa-17 tion and labels to minors on advertisements regard-18 ing—

19 (A) the name of the product, service, or
20 brand and the subject matter of an advertise21 ment;

(B) if the covered platform engages in individual-specific advertising to minors, why a
particular advertisement is directed to a specific
minor, including material information about

1	how the minor's personal data is used to direct
2	the advertisement to the minor; and
3	(C) whether particular media displayed to
4	the minor is an advertisement or marketing ma-
5	terial, including disclosure of endorsements of
6	products, services, or brands made for commer-
7	cial consideration by other users of the plat-
8	form.
.9	(2) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commis-
10	sion may issue guidance to assist covered platforms
11	in complying with the requirements of this sub-
12	section, including guidance about the minimum level
13	of information and labels for the disclosures required
14	under paragraph (1) .
15	(d) Resources for Parents and Minors.—A cov-
1 6	ered platform shall provide to minors and parents clear,
17	conspicuous, easy-to-understand, and comprehensive infor-
18	mation in a prominent location regarding—
19	(1) its policies and practices with respect to
20	personal data and safeguards for minors; and
21	(2) how to access the safeguards and tools re-
22	quired under section 4.
23	(e) Resources in Additional Languages.—A
24	covered platform shall ensure, to the extent practicable,
25	that the disclosures required by this section are made

available in the same language, form, and manner as the
 covered platform provides any product or service used by
 minors and their parents.

4 SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY.

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not less 6 frequently than once a year, a covered platform shall issue 7 a public report describing the reasonably foreseeable risks 8 of material harms to minors and assessing the prevention 9 and mitigation measures taken to address such risk based 10 on an independent, third-party audit conducted through 11 reasonable inspection of the covered platform.

12 (b) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of13 this section shall apply to a covered platform if—

14 (1) for the most recent calendar year, the plat15 form averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on
16 a monthly basis in the United States; and

(2) the platform predominantly provides a community forum for user-generated content and discussion, including sharing videos, images, games, audio
files, discussion in a virtual setting, or other content,
such as acting as a social media platform, virtual reality environment, or a social network service.

23 (c) CONTENT.—

1	(1) TRANSPARENCY.—The public reports re-
2	quired of a covered platform under this section shall
3	include
4	(A) an assessment of the extent to which
5	the platform is likely to be accessed by minors;
6	(B) a description of the commercial inter-
7	ests of the covered platform in use by minors;
8	(C) an accounting, based on the data held
9	by the covered platform, of—
10	(i) the number of individuals using
11	the covered platform reasonably believed to
12	be minors in the United States; and
13	(ii) the median and mean amounts of
14	time spent on the platform by minors in
15	the United States who have accessed the
16	platform during the reporting year on a
17	daily, weekly, and monthly basis;
18	(D) an accounting of total reports received
19	regarding, and the prevalence (which can be
20	based on scientifically valid sampling methods
21	using the content available to the covered plat-
22	form in the normal course of business) of con-
23	tent related to, the harms described in section
24	3(a), disaggregated by category of harm; and

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1	(E) a description of any material breaches
2	of parental tools or assurances regarding mi-
3	nors, representations regarding the use of the
4	personal data of minors, and other matters re-
5	garding non-compliance.
6	(2) REASONABLY FORESEEABLE RISK OF HARM
7	TO MINORS.—The public reports required of a cov-
8	ered platform under this section shall include—
9	(A) an assessment of the reasonably fore-
10	seeable risk of harms to minors posed by the
11	covered platform, including identifying any
12	other physical, mental, developmental, or finan-
13	cial harms in addition to those described in sec-
14	tion 3(a);
15	(B) an assessment of how personalized rec-
16	ommendation systems and individual-specific
17	advertising to minors can contribute to harms
18	to minors;
19	(C) a description of whether and how the
20	covered platform uses system design features
21	that increase, sustain, or extend use of a prod-
22	uct or service by a minor, such as automatic
23	playing of media, rewards for time spent, and
24	notifications;

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1	(D) a description of whether, how, and for
2	what purpose the platform collects or processes
3	categories of personal data that may cause rea-
4	sonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors;
5	(E) an evaluation of the efficacy of safe-
6	guards for minors under section 4, and any
7	issues in delivering such safeguards and the as-
8	sociated parental tools; and
9	(F) an evaluation of any other relevant
10	matters of public concern over risk of harms to
11	minors.
12	(3) MITIGATION.—The public reports required
13	of a covered platform under this section shall in-
14	clude
15	(A) a description of the safeguards and pa-
16	rental tools available to minors and parents on
17	the covered platform;
18	(B) a description of interventions by the
19	covered platform when it had or has reason to
20	believe that harms to minors could occur;
21	(C) a description of the prevention and
22	mitigation measures intended to be taken in re-
23	sponse to the known and emerging risks identi-
24	fied in its assessment of system risks, including
25	steps taken to

1	(i) prevent harms to minors, including
2	adapting or removing system design fea-
3	tures or addressing through parental con-
4	trols;
5	(ii) provide the most protective level of
6	control over privacy and safety by default;
7	and
8	(iii) adapt recommendation systems to
9	mitigate reasonably foreseeable risk of
10	harms to minors, as described in section
11	3(a);
12	(D) a description of internal processes for
13	handling reports and automated detection
14	mechanisms for harms to minors, including the
15	rate, timeliness, and effectiveness of responses
16	under the requirement of section 4(c);
17	(E) the status of implementing prevention
18	and mitigation measures identified in prior as-
19	sessments; and
20	(F) a description of the additional meas-
21	ures to be taken by the covered platform to ad-
22	dress the circumvention of safeguards for mi-
23	nors and parental tools.

1 (d) REASONABLE INSPECTION.—In conducting an in-2 spection of the systemic risks of harm to minors under this section, an independent, third-party auditor shall-3 (1) take into consideration the function of per-4 5 sonalized recommendation systems; 6 (2) consult parents and youth experts, including 7 vouth and families with relevant past or current experience, public health and mental health nonprofit 8 9 organizations, health and development organizations, 10 and civil society with respect to the prevention of 11 harms to minors; 12 (3) conduct research based on experiences of 13 minors that use the covered platform, including re-

ports under section 4(c) and information provided bylaw enforcement;

16 (4) take account of research, including research
17 regarding system design features, marketing, or
18 product integrity, industry best practices, or outside
19 research; and

20 (5) consider indicia or inferences of age of
21 users, in addition to any self-declared information
22 about the age of individuals.

23 (e) COOPERATION WITH INDEPENDENT, THIRD24 PARTY AUDIT.—To facilitate the report required by sub25 section (c), a covered platform shall—

(1) provide or otherwise make available to the
 independent third-party conducting the audit all in formation and material in its possession, custody, or
 control that is relevant to the audit;

5 (2) provide or otherwise make available to the 6 independent third-party conducting the audit access 7 to all network, systems, and assets relevant to the 8 audit; and

9 (3) disclose all relevant facts to the independent 10 third-party conducting the audit, and not misrepre-11 sent in any manner, expressly or by implication, any 12 relevant fact.

13 (f) PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing the public reports
15 required under this section, a covered platform shall
16 take steps to safeguard the privacy of its users, in17 cluding ensuring that data is presented in a de-iden18 tified, aggregated format such that it is reasonably
19 impossible for the data to be linked back to any indi20 vidual user.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section
shall not be construed to require the disclosure of information that will lead to material vulnerabilities
for the privacy of users or the security of a covered

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1	platform's service or create a significant risk of the
2	violation of Federal or State law.
3	(3) DEFINITION OF DE-IDENTIFIED.—As used
4	in this subsection, the term "de-identified" means
5	data that does not identify and is not linked or rea-
6	sonably linkable to a device that is linked or reason-
7	ably linkable to an individual, regardless of whether
8	the information is aggregated
9	(g) LOCATION.—The public reports required under
10	this section should be posted by a covered platform on an
11	easy to find location on a publicly-available website.
12	SEC. 7. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND
	MINORS.
13 14	MINORS. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
13 14	
13	(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
13 14 15 16	(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission"
13 14 15 16	 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.
13 14 15 16 17 18	 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term "National
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 	 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences.
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 	 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means
13 14 15 16 17	 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 	 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) SECRETARY,—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services. (b) RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS.—Not
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 	 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services. (b) RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this

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prehensive studies and reports on the risk of harms to mi-1 2 nors by use of social media and other online platforms. 3 (c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—In contracting with the National Academy, the Commission, in consulta-4 tion with the Secretary, shall seek to commission separate 5 6 studies and reports, using the Commission's authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act 7 8 (15 U.S.C. 46(b)), on the relationship between social media and other online platforms as defined in this Act 9 10 on the following matters:

11 (1) Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and12 suicidal behaviors.

(2) Substance use disorders and the use of narcotic drugs, tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol
by minors.

16 (3) Sexual exploitation and abuse.

17 (4) Addiction-like use of social media and de18 sign factors that lead to unhealthy and harmful
19 overuse of social media.

(d) ADDITIONAL STUDY.—Not earlier than 4 years
after enactment, the Commission shall seek to enter into
a contract with the National Academy under which the
National Academy shall conduct an additional study and
report covering the matters described in subsection (c) for

the purposes of providing additional information, consid ering new research, and other matters.

3 (e) CONTENT OF REPORTS.— The comprehensive 4 studies and reports conducted pursuant to this section 5 shall seek to evaluate impacts and advance understanding, 6 knowledge, and remedies regarding the harms to minors 7 posed by social media and other online platforms, and may 8 include recommendations related to public policy.

9 (f) ACTIVE STUDIES.—If the National Academy is 10 engaged in any active studies on the matters described in 11 subsection (c) at the time that it enters into a contract 12 with the Commission to conduct a study under this sec-13 tion, it may base the study to be conducted under this 14 section on the active study, so long as it otherwise incor-15 porates the requirements of this section.

16 (g) COLLABORATION.—In designing and conducting 17 the studies under this section, the Commission, the Sec-18 retary, and the National Academy shall consult with the 19 Surgeon General and the Kids Online Safety Council.

20 (h) ACCESS TO DATA.—

(1) FACT-FINDING AUTHORITY.—The Commission may issue orders to gather and compile information and data necessary to conduct the studies required under this section.

(2) SCOPE.—The Commission may issue orders
 under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission
 Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to no more than 5 covered
 platforms per study under this section.

5 (3) CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS.—Pursuant to sub-6 sections (b) and (f) of section 6 of the Federal 7 Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46), the Commis-8 sion shall enter in agreements with the National 9 Academy to share appropriate information received 10from a covered platform pursuant to an order under 11 such subsection (b) for a comprehensive study under 12 this section in a confidential and secure manner, and 13 to prohibit the disclosure or sharing of such infor-14 mation by the National Academy.

15 SEC. 8. MARKET RESEARCH.

16 (a) MARKET RESEARCH BY COVERED PLATFORMS.—
17 The Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the
18 Secretary of Commerce, shall issue guidance for covered
19 platforms seeking to conduct market- and product-focused
20 research on minors. Such guidance shall include—

(1) a standard consent form that provides minors and their parents a clear, conspicuous, and
easy-to-understand explanation of the scope and purpose of the research to be conducted, and provides
an opportunity for informed consent; and

(2) recommendations for research practices for
 studies that may include minors, disaggregated by
 the age ranges of 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16.

4 (b) TIMING.—The Federal Trade Commission shall 5 issue such guidance not later than 18 months after the 6 date of enactment of this Act. In doing so, they shall seek 7 input from members of the public and the representatives 8 of the Kids Online Safety Council established under sec-9 tion 12.

10 SEC. 9. AGE VERIFICATION STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Director of the National Institute
of Standards and Technology, in coordination with the
Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade
Commission, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall conduct a study evaluating the most technologically feasible
methods and options for developing systems to verify age
at the device or operating system level.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—Such study shall consider —

19 (1) the benefits of creating a device or oper-20 ating system level age verification system;

(2) what information may need to be collected
to create this type of age verification system;

23 (3) the accuracy of such systems and their im24 pact or steps to improve accessibility, including for
25 individuals with disabilities;

(4) how such a system or systems could verify
 age while mitigating risks to user privacy and data
 security and safeguarding minors' personal data,
 emphasizing minimizing the amount of data col lected and processed by covered platforms and age
 verification providers for such a system; and

7 (5) the technical feasibility, including the need
8 for potential hardware and software changes, includ9 ing for devices currently in commerce and owned by
10 consumers.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date 12 of enactment of this Act, the agencies described in sub-13 section (a) shall submit a report containing the results of 14 the study conducted under such subsection to the Com-15 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the 16 Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of 17 the House of Representatives.

18 SEC. 10. GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Kids Online Safety Council established under section 12, shall issue guidance to—
(1) provide information and examples for covered platforms and auditors regarding—

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1	(A) identifying features that are used to
2	increase, sustain, or extend use of the covered
3	platform by a minor;
4	(B) safeguarding minors against the pos-
5	sible misuse of parental tools;
6	(C) best practices in providing minors and
7	parents the most protective level of control over
8	privacy and safety;
9	(D) using indicia or inferences of age of
10	users for assessing use of the covered platform
11	by minors;
12	(E) methods for evaluating the efficacy of
13	safeguards; and
14	(F) providing additional control options
15	that allow parents to address the harms de-
16	scribed in section 3(a); and
17	(2) outline conduct that does not have the pur-
18	pose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing
19	user autonomy, decision-making, or choice, or of
20	causing, increasing, or encouraging compulsive usage
21	for a minor, such as
22	(A) de minimis user interface changes de-
23	rived from testing consumer preferences, includ-
24	ing different styles, layouts, or text, where such
25	changes are not done with the purpose of weak-

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ening or disabling safeguards or parental con trols;

3 (B) algorithms or data outputs outside the
4 control of a covered platform; and

5 (C) establishing default settings that pro-6 vide enhanced privacy protection to users or 7 otherwise enhance their autonomy and decision-8 making ability.

9 (b) GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-10 retary of Education, in consultation with the Federal 11 12 Trade Commission and the Kids Online Safety Council es-13 tablished under section 12, shall issue guidance to assist 14 to assist elementary and secondary schools in using the notice, safeguards and tools provided under this Act and 15 16 providing information on online safety for students and teachers. 17

18(c) GUIDANCE ON KNOWLEDGE STANDARD.-Not 19 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this 20 Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and exam-21 ples, for covered platforms to understand the Commis-22 sion's determination of whether a covered platform "had 23 24 knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances" for purposes of this Act. 25

1	(d) Limitation on Federal Trade Commission
2	GUIDANCE.—
3	(1) EFFECT OF GUIDANCE.—No guidance
4	issued by the Federal Trade Commission with re-
5	spect to this Act shall—
6	(A) confer any rights on any person, State,
7	or locality; or
8	(B) operate to bind the Federal Trade
9	Commission or any person to the approach rec-
10	ommended in such guidance.
11	(2) Use in enforcement actions.—In any
12	enforcement action brought pursuant to this Act, the
13	Federal Trade Commission—
14	(A) shall allege a violation of a provision of
15	this Act; and
16	(B) may not base such enforcement action
17	on, or execute a consent order based on, prac-
18	tices that are alleged to be inconsistent with
19	guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commis-
20	sion with respect to this Act, unless the prac-
21	tices are alleged to violate a provision of this
22	Act.
23	SEC. 11. ENFORCEMENT.
24	(a) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMIS-

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25 SION.—

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(1) UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRAC TICES.—A violation of this Act shall be treated as
 a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive
 act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B)
 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C.
 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade 8 9 Commission (referred to in this section as the "Commission") shall enforce this Act in the 10 11 same manner, by the same means, and with the 12 same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though 13 all applicable terms and provisions of the Fed-14 eral Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et 15 seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this Act. 16

17 (B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any
18 person that violates this Act shall be subject to
19 the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and
20 immunities, provided in the Federal Trade
21 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this
Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the
Commission under any other provision of law.

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1 (b) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GEN-2 ERAL.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—

4 (A) CIVIL ACTIONS.—In any case in which 5 the attorney general of a State has reason to 6 believe that an interest of the residents of that 7 State has been or is threatened or adversely af-8 fected by the engagement of any person in a 9 practice that violates this Act, the State, as 10 parens patriae, may bring a civil action on be-11 half of the residents of the State in a district court of the United States or a State court of 12 13 appropriate jurisdiction to—

- 14 (i) enjoin that practice;15 (ii) enforce compliance with this Act;
 - (iii) on behalf of residents of the State, obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation, each of which shall be distributed in accordance with State law; or
- 20 (iv) obtain such other relief as the
 21 court may consider to be appropriate.
- 22 (B) NOTICE.—
- 23 (i) IN GENERAL.—Before filing an ac24 tion under subparagraph (A), the attorney

1	general of the State involved shall provide
2	to the Commission-
3.	(I) written notice of that action;
4	and
5	(II) a copy of the complaint for
6	that action.
7	(ii) EXEMPTION.—
8	(I) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i)
9	shall not apply with respect to the fil-
10	ing of an action by an attorney gen-
11	eral of a State under this paragraph
12	if the attorney general of the State
13	determines that it is not feasible to
14	provide the notice described in that
15	clause before the filing of the action.
16	(II) NOTIFICATION.—In an ac-
17	tion described in subclause (I), the at-
18	torney general of a State shall provide
19	notice and a copy of the complaint to
20	the Commission at the same time as
21	the attorney general files the action.
22	(2) INTERVENTION.—
23	(A) IN GENERAL.—On receiving notice
24	under paragraph (1)(B), the Commission shall

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1	have the right to intervene in the action that is
2	the subject of the notice.
3	(B) EFFECT OF INTERVENTION.—If the
4	Commission intervenes in an action under para-
5	graph (1), it shall have the right—
6	(i) to be heard with respect to any
7	matter that arises in that action; and
8	(ii) to file a petition for appeal.
9	(3) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing
10	any civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this
11	Act shall be construed to prevent an attorney gen-
12	eral of a State from exercising the powers conferred
13	on the attorney general by the laws of that State
14	to
15	(A) conduct investigations;
16	(B) administer oaths or affirmations; or
17	(C) compel the attendance of witnesses or
18	the production of documentary and other evi-
19	dence.
20	(4) ACTIONS BY THE COMMISSION.—In any
21	case in which an action is instituted by or on behalf
22	of the Commission for violation of this Act, no State
23	may, during the pendency of that action, institute a
24	separate action under paragraph (1) against any de-
25	fendant named in the complaint in the action insti-

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1	tuted by or on behalf of the Commission for that
2	violation.
3	(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—
4	(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under
5	paragraph (1) may be brought in—
6	(i) the district court of the United
7	States that meets applicable requirements
8	relating to venue under section 1391 of
9	title 28, United States Code; or
10	(ii) a State court of competent juris-
11	diction.
12	(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action
13	brought under paragraph (1) in a district court
14	of the United States, process may be served
15	wherever defendant
16	(i) is an inhabitant; or
17	(ii) may be found.
18	SEC. 12. KIDS ONLINE SAFETY COUNCIL.
19	(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
20	the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Com-
21	merce shall establish and convene the Kids Online Safety
22	Council for the purpose of providing advice on matters re-
23	lated to this Act.
24	(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Kids Online Safety Coun-
25	cil shall include diverse participation from—

and come to sha

1	(1) academic experts, health professionals, and
2	members of civil society with expertise in mental
3	health, substance use disorders, and the prevention
4	of harms to minors;
5	(2) representatives in academia and civil society
6	with specific expertise in privacy and civil liberties;
7	(3) parents and youth representation;
8	(4) representatives of covered platforms;
9	(5) representatives of the National Tele-
10	communications and Information Administration,
11	the National Institute of Standards and Technology,
12	the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of
13	Justice, and the Department of Health and Human
14	Services;
15	(6) State attorneys general or their designees
16	acting in State or local government;
17	(7) educators; and
18	(8) representatives of communities of socially
19	disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8 of
20	the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637)).
21	(c) ACTIVITIES.—The matters to be addressed by the
22	Kids Online Safety Council shall include—
23	(1) identifying emerging or current risks of
24	harms to minors associated with online platforms;

(2) recommending measures and methods for
 assessing, preventing, and mitigating harms to mi nors online;

4 (3) recommending methods and themes for con5 ducting research regarding online harms to minors;
6 and

7 (4) recommending best practices and clear, con8 sensus-based technical standards for transparency
9 reports and audits, as required under this Act, in10 cluding methods, criteria, and scope to promote
11 overall accountability.

12 SEC. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.

13 Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act14 shall take effect on the date that is 18 months after the15 date of enactment of this Act.

16 SEC. 14. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER MATTERS.

17 (a) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in18 this Act shall be construed to—

(1) preempt section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly
known as the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974") or other Federal or State laws
governing student privacy;

(2) preempt the Children's Online Privacy Pro tection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) or any
 rule or regulation promulgated under such Act; or
 (3) authorize any action that would conflict
 with section 18(h) of the Federal Trade Commission
 Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(h)).

(b) DETERMINATION OF "FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE 7 BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES".—For purposes 8 of enforcing this Act, in making a determination as to 9 whether covered platform has knowledge fairly implied on 10 the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a minor, 11 12 the Federal Trade Commission shall rely on competent 13 and reliable empirical evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including consideration of 14 whether the operator, using available technology, exercised 15 reasonable care. 16

17 (c) PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVACY.—Nothing in this18 Act shall be construed to require—

(1) the affirmative collection of any personal
data with respect to the age of users that a covered
platform is not already collecting in the normal
course of business; or

23 (2) a covered platform to implement an age24 gating or age verification functionality.

(d) COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this Act shall be con strued to restrict a covered platform's ability to—

3 (1) cooperate with law enforcement agencies re4 garding activity that the covered platform reasonably
5 and in good faith believes may violate Federal,
6 State, or local laws, rules, or regulations;

7 (2) comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory
8 inquiry or any investigation, subpoena, or summons
9 by Federal, State, local, or other government au10 thorities; or

11 (3) investigate, establish, exercise, respond to,
12 or defend against legal claims.

(e) APPLICATION TO VIDEO STREAMING SERVICES.—
A video streaming service shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Act if it predominantly consists of news,
sports, entertainment, or other video programming content that is preselected by the provider and not user-generated, and—

19 (1)chat. comment, interactive or any 20 functionality is provided incidental to, directly re-21 lated to, or dependent on provision of such content; 22 (2) if such video streaming service requires ac-23 count owner registration and is not predominantly 24 news or sports, the service includes the capability—

1	(A) to limit a minor's access to the service,
2	which may utilize a system of age-rating;
3	(B) to limit the automatic playing of on-
4	demand content selected by a personalized rec-
5	ommendation system for an individual that the
6	service knows is a minor;
7	(C) to provide an individual that the serv-
8	ice knows is a minor with readily-accessible and
9	easy-to-use options to delete an account held by
10	the minor and delete any personal data col-
11	lected from the minor on the service, or, in the
12	case of a service that allows a parent to create
13	a profile for a minor, to allow a parent to delete
14	the minor's profile, and to delete any personal
15	data collected from the minor on the service;
16	(D) for a parent to manage a minor's pri-
17	vacy and account settings, and restrict pur-
18	chases and financial transactions by a minor,
19	where applicable;
20	(E) to provide an electronic point of con-
21	tact specific to matters described in this para-
22	graph;
23	(F) to offer a clear, conspicuous, and easy-
24	to-understand notice of its policies and prac-

1	tices with respect to personal data and the ca-
2	pabilities described in this paragraph; and
3	(G) when providing on-demand content, to
4	employ measures that safeguard against serving
5	advertising for narcotic drugs (as defined in
6	section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act
7	(21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling,
8	or alcohol directly to the account or profile of
9	an individual that the service knows is a minor.
10	SEC. 15. SEVERABILITY.
11	If any provision of this Act, or an amendment made
12	by this Act, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid,
13	the remaining provisions of this Act and the amendments
14	made by this Act shall not be affected.