



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

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July 22, 2025

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Blackburn and Blumenthal:

We write today on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Communication and the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, to express our gratitude for your leadership in reintroducing the *Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA)*, S.1748, and to offer our support for this important legislation. As noted in our [letter to Congress in 2023 regarding the protection of children online](#), we have seen the growing risks children face, from exploitation, predatory behavior, exposure to content that damages mental health, promotes immoral behavior, and distorts human dignity. The digital environment in which our young people live can and must be made safer, more transparent, and more accountable than what currently exists. The KOSA legislation that you have championed takes meaningful and effective steps toward that goal.

The Catholic Church in the United States has learned—sometimes painfully—the importance of safeguarding children and holding institutions accountable for harm, especially when that harm could have been prevented. The protection of children is not only a moral imperative. It is also an indication of cultural and societal priorities.

Today's online platforms often expose children to content and interactions that threaten their mental, emotional, and even physical well-being. KOSA's "duty of care" rightly demands that digital companies treat children not as data points or revenue sources, but as vulnerable human beings with real needs and rights. As Catholics, we believe in the respect for human life and dignity, and that each child is a person created in the image and likeness of God, deserving of love, protection, and the freedom to grow in a healthy and secure environment.

The bill's provisions help empower parents and guardians to better oversee their children's digital experiences, which reflects the Church's deep conviction that the family is the central social institution of society. By restoring to families the authority needed to protect and guide their children, KOSA strengthens the essential bond between parent and child that so often is undermined in the digital age.

Finally, KOSA helps affirm our shared responsibility to ensure that the structures of society protect the most vulnerable. No child should be left unprotected in digital spaces where anonymity and algorithms often prioritize engagement over safety. Moreover, as emerging research reveals the significant impact of social media on the mental health of young people, we must act with urgency. Laws like KOSA are essential to confronting these threats and creating a digital culture that supports, rather than erodes, the well-being of children.



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We are very grateful for your work on this legislation to focus serious attention on this growing problem, and we urge your colleagues in the Senate to swiftly pass this bill. Thank you for your work to promote the safety and wellbeing of children.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend William D. Byrne
Bishop of Springfield
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Communications

Most Reverend Robert E. Barron
Bishop of Winona-Rochester
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth