

# SUPPORT SENATE BILL 2881

by Sen. Bryan Hughes and Rep. Caroline Harris Davila

## Protect Kids from Harmful Social Media Practices

Social media companies have made billions of dollars by attracting and keeping children on their platforms using highly questionable methods. **Common-sense regulations like Senate Bill 2881 are needed now to help keep children safe.**

### HARMFUL PRACTICES

Ongoing reports continue to peel back the curtain on social media companies' tracking of kids' use of their platforms and creating features that may result in addictive habits.

Recent accounts of a lawsuit Kentucky filed against Tik Tok<sup>1,2</sup> detail allegations the company measures how long it takes for kids to get addicted to its platform – referred to as the “habit moment” and estimated to be about 260 videos during the first week of having an account, or around 35 minutes. The lawsuit also alleges the company manipulates its algorithms to exclude unattractive people and is aware of so-called “leakage” content that violates its own guidelines – such as sexual exploitation of children – but fails to remove, moderate, or disclose it.

Additional reports detail testimony by a Meta (formerly Facebook) whistleblower,<sup>3,4</sup> alleging the company collects and analyzes teens' online data and interactions to gauge their emotional vulnerabilities. The whistleblower alleges the company then sells the sensitive data to advertisers to target teens with products they are more likely to buy in that emotional state.

### COUNTERACTIVE MEASURES

Research shows kids' mental, physical, and developmental health are highly susceptible to these kinds of detrimental social media practices.<sup>5</sup> SB 2881 directly targets and helps counter their effects on children with a safer online environment by requiring digital media providers to:

- Create default settings for minors that: automatically limit screen time to one hour per day; prohibit unsolicited contact from unknown individuals; disable public comments and conceal friend/follower lists; and prohibit the use of algorithms to automate content.
- Provide controls that allow parents to change the access and communications settings on their minor's user account at any time, including default settings, time limits, and the ability to make purchases.
- Disclose the manner in which their algorithms provide, promote, rank, or filter information or content, and ensure algorithms do not misuse personal information.

## Protect kids online now: **Support SB 2881.**



Physicians Caring for Texans

[texmed.org/Legislature](https://www.texmed.org/Legislature)

#### SOURCES:

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2. Commonwealth of Kentucky, ex rel. Russell Coleman, Attorney General v. Tik Tok. <https://www.icelie/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/TikTok-Kentucky.pdf>. Tik Tok has denied the allegations.
3. U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism, "A Time for Truth: Oversight of Meta's Foreign Relations and Representations to the United States Congress." Questions for the Record for Sarah Wynn-Williams, submitted April 16, 2025. [https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-09\\_qfr\\_responses\\_wynn-williams.pdf](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-09_qfr_responses_wynn-williams.pdf). Meta has denied the allegations.
4. "Meta whistleblower Sarah Wynn-Williams says company targeted ads at teens based on their 'emotional state,'" Yahoo Finance, April 9, 2025. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/meta-whistleblower-sarah-wynn-williams-214239975.html>
5. Texas Medical Association and Texas Pediatric Society testimony, Senate Committee on State Affairs hearing on Senate Bill 2881, April 10, 2025. [https://www.texmed.org/uploadedFiles/Current/2016\\_Advocacy/Texas\\_Legislature/Testimony/04.10.2025\\_SB\\_2881\\_Youth\\_SocMedia\\_Settings\\_Written\\_Testi.pdf](https://www.texmed.org/uploadedFiles/Current/2016_Advocacy/Texas_Legislature/Testimony/04.10.2025_SB_2881_Youth_SocMedia_Settings_Written_Testi.pdf)