



June 15, 2026

Dear Senators:

This week, Senator Jim Banks (R-Ind.) introduced the SAFE for Kids Act, a bill that would require porn websites to implement age verification technology to prevent minors from accessing so-called “adult” content. We the undersigned conservative leaders call on all senators to cosponsor the legislation and advance it as soon as possible.

Today, the [average age](#) of first porn exposure is **12 years old**, with [54 percent of children](#) ages 13 and younger and [80 percent of children](#) ages 12-17 having been exposed to sexually explicit content.

Pornography is a known public health hazard with a range of detrimental personal and social harms, [including](#):

- Unique risk for addiction among children and teenagers due to continued brain development
- Anxiety, low self-esteem, and body-image disorders
- Normalization of sexual violence
- Interruption of normal development of healthy relationships between boys and girls
- Problematic sexual activity at younger ages.

Technology makes it easier than ever for young children to access pornography. [Nearly 25 percent of children](#) own a smartphone by age 8, and [nearly 40 percent of children ages 8-12](#) use social media. Hence, the porn industry is not only harming the most vulnerable Americans but also profiting off of them. In [2025](#), the Adult Entertainment Market was valued at **\$191.69 billion** and is expected to reach nearly **\$275.18 billion** by 2032. It's time to do better.

Twenty-six states have passed laws protecting minors from online pornography. Most of these laws passed with bipartisan majorities. The Supreme Court held them to be constitutional in last year's landmark *Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton* decision, recognizing the government's broad authority to protect children from sexual content. But this patchwork of protection will have limited effect without federal action. Children in the other twenty-four states deserve protection too.

The SAFE for Kids Act would protect children across the nation by doing the following:

*Apply directly to the source of digital pornography*

Filters and blockers shield unwanted content, but only on individual devices. Age verification technology operates at the level of the individual website hosting the pornography. Requiring this technology puts the burden directly on the porn companies that profit off addiction and holds them accountable for the harms that ensue.

### *Protect data privacy*

SAFE for Kids prohibits covered entities and third-party contractors from retaining or selling the information collected for age verification purposes, adding a layer of privacy protection that does not currently exist.

### *Hold companies accountable for exposing kids to online pornography*

This legislation includes three levels of enforcement: It empowers the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to treat a failure to implement age verification measures as unfair or deceptive trade practices; it empowers the Department of Justice to launch criminal investigations into suspected violations in parallel with the FTC's civil enforcement; and it provides a private right of action to minors and parents of minors harmed by a violation.

### *Complements the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) and the App Store Accountability Act (ASAA)*

The SAFE for Kids Act helps address a blind spot in other kids' online safety bills: unfettered access to pornography for any kid who owns a smartphone. Although KOSA and ASAA take important steps to protect children on social media platforms and to uphold parental rights in app stores, respectively, neither bill would stop minors from reaching adult websites. With increasing numbers of children accessing pornography at younger ages, additional legislation dealing with this specific issue is absolutely necessary.

**More than 90% of parents** worry about their children's online safety and **more than half** agree that politicians aren't taking this issue seriously enough. On the whole, **81 percent** of voters support a federal age verification law to protect minors from accessing pornographic content. The SAFE for Kids Act will address a major element of parents' worries, filling in holes in current deterring measures and establishing new protections.

As Congress considers a myriad of ways to protect kids online, we implore senators to consider what is perhaps the most grave threat to kids online: being exposed at an early age to the most violent, hardcore pornography imaginable. Legislators have the opportunity, right now, to stand with parents, families, and voters across America in advancing a solution that has broad, bipartisan support.

**We, the undersigned conservative leaders and organizations, urge you to co-sponsor the SAFE for Kids Act and support its passage.**

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