



September 11, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

Subject: Support for SB 976 - Social Media Youth Addiction Law and AB 1831 and SB 1381- Protecting Youth from Obscene Digital Content Act

We are the members of the Bay Area Advisory Council at Common Sense Media and, like you, we are parents of school-aged children in San Francisco and Marin. We are writing to express our strong support for several crucial pieces of legislation pending before you that would protect children and teens throughout the state, online. We respectfully encourage you to sign these bills into law.

SB 976, the Social Media Youth Addiction Law, spearheaded by Senator Nancy Skinner, AB 1831, the Protecting Youth from Obscene Digital Content Act, authored by Assemblymember Berman, and SB 1381, authored by Senator Wahab, are critical pieces of legislation that address the urgent need to protect our youth in an increasingly digital age.

SB 976 would reduce the addictive nature of large social media platforms and mitigate their negative impacts on our children's mental health and development. The bill protects our youth by:

- Limiting social media companies' ability to use addictive feeds that keep kids glued to their devices - by default. Parents can opt their children into addictive feeds, if they want to do that.
- Empowering parents with the ability to control other harmful design features of social media, like nighttime notifications, likes and dislikes, offering a safer and healthier online environment for our youth.

Similarly, **AB 1831** and **SB 1381** would protect our kids by:

- Broadening the definition of obscene materials to include representations of persons under 18 engaging in or simulating sexual conduct via artificial intelligence or computer-generated means.
- This legislation is vital for holding offenders that create, possess, or distribute Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) accountable even when the images are created using digitally altered or AI generated content. This bill is consistent with our mission to ensure a safe and positive online experience for all young Californians.

The timely passage of SB 976, AB 1831 and SB 1381 is essential. These bills provide practical frameworks for safeguarding our children from the known dangers of social media addiction and illegal content, setting a strong example for legislative action nationwide. It is hard to imagine anyone opposing this legislation.

We commend Senator Skinner, Assemblymember Berman, and Senator Wahab for their dedication to the well-being of California's youth and their leadership in moving these important measures forward. And we compliment you for your leadership in signing into law several bills over the past few years to protect kids online, including the Age Appropriate Design Code in 2022 and the Buffy Bill last year. The bills we are recommending you support this year would fill important gaps remaining in our quest for online protection for kids and teens. We urge your support for these bills and look forward to the positive impact their enactment will have on the lives of young Californians and their families.

Thank you for considering our support for these crucial initiatives. We look forward to hearing from you about our position on these bills.

Sincerely,

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