

PLACE ON LETTERHEAD

March 21, 2023

Senator Thomas J. Umberg, Chair
Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 287 (Skinner)

Letter of Support from [insert name of organization]

Dear Chairperson Umberg:

On behalf of [Organization Name], we write in support of SB 287 (Skinner) which is designed to hold social media platforms accountable for promoting the illegal sale of fentanyl to California youth and for the sale of unlawful firearms, including ghost guns. The protections in SB 287 would also hold these platforms accountable for targeting other harmful content toward youth that could result in suicide, eating disorders, dangerous dieting practices, or inflicting harm on themselves or others.

Studies have shown that social media has a powerful effect on the brain, and it can create stimulating effects like addiction. Adolescence is the second biggest period of growth in the brain, which makes children and teens particularly susceptible to addictiveness of social media, as their brains and social skills are rapidly developing. Social media algorithms are specifically designed to addict users by feeding them content that reinforces their preferences and interests.

SB 287 would further prohibit a social media platform, as defined, from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should have known, causes child and teen users to engage in harmful practices and/or behaviors, including experience addiction to the social media platform.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 287.

Sincerely,
[signature and title]

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Chair, CA Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Stephen Glazer
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assemblymember Timothy Grayson