

My name is Shana McNamara, and I am lobbying for myself. I'm writing to explain why SB 24-158 is a bad idea, and there are blatant reasons why. I am a proud Colorado Native. I am a Denver resident. I worked as a Registered Nurse for many years, as well as served in the U.S. Military. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns with you today.

I was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder at age 12. They started medicating me at age 13, with pharmaceuticals that we now know are extremely dangerous to prescribe to teenagers. Over the following years, I would take thousands of antidepressants (SSRI, SNRI, NDRI), anticonvulsants, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines. All of this before the age of seventeen. I often wonder how much more damage was done to my developing brain by all of those toxic chemicals. I spent the next 20 years struggling with Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Attention Deficit Disorder. If there's an acronym for it, I've probably been diagnosed with it. I trusted my doctor knew best, and complied with the pharmaceutical regimen prescribed to me, but to no avail. Finally, I received what is considered "last resort" treatment. I underwent electroconvulsive therapy, also referred to as "shock therapy," for three consecutive years. As a result, I cannot remember about half of my life. I also struggled with Substance Abuse Disorder at intervals from age 14. Further evidence that the pharmaceutical garbage they were feeding me did not work.

Twelve years ago, I beat a 5-year opiate addiction using kratom. Nine years ago, I found cannabis. The combination of these two plants has drastically improved my quality of life. I genuinely feel good. Happy. Grateful. And hopeful. Now, I take one itty bitty pill every day. And I smoke cannabis. And I take kratom. And I drink kava. And I microdose with psilocybin mushrooms (which are rapidly improving my memory). My memory, which was wiped out by traditional medicine. Now, I feel better than I ever thought possible. I'm a better person. I'm a better daughter, I'm a better sister, I'm a better friend, a better colleague, and most importantly, a better mother. It's hard to accept that I spent so many years being less happy than I could have been. People need to know that there is another way.

Think about the repercussions this bill, if passed, would have on veterans seeking some kind of relief from their pain. Anyone that is paying attention knows that the opiate epidemic, of unprecedented proportion, has become a national crisis. Plant medicines like ibogaine, psilocybin, and cannabis are effective and viable treatment options for opiate addiction and suppressing that information from the people that need it the most is unethical and inexcusable. Why would you not afford a veteran with PTSD, that the VA has failed, the opportunity to seek alternative therapy? Have they not earned at least that?

Plant medicine has saved my life, time and again. Why wouldn't I reach out to my neighbor, or friend, or anyone for that matter, who is now where I once was (addicted, hopeless, merely existing), to share my success story, advocate for alternative therapy, and offer hope for recovery. Traditional therapies have failed millions of people for decades. There is hope in plant medicine. Hope for many. This bill will cause harm, far more than it will reduce harm. You simply cannot combine plant medicines into the same category as dangerous narcotics like heroin and fentanyl. They are not the same.

I understand both sides often coin. I'm a mother, and I've been an opiate addict. I can't even begin to imagine the kind of pain that a parent experiences when they lose their child to a drug overdose, but don't inflict any further suffering on others by endorsing or passing this bill. The intention is noble. I agree with that much. But there are potentially devastating, unintended consequences of this bill. Passing it would only perpetuate suffering.

I am an honorably discharged U.S. Army veteran, and I do not appreciate having to stand up here, and petition and testify as to why my First Amendment right should be protected. I took an oath when I enlisted in the Army, to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As a lawmaker, you took a similar oath. I'm asking you to make a logical decision. Make the obvious choice. Vote NO on SB 24-158. I hope we, as Coloradans, can count on you to do the right thing. We need to protect children from internet predators, but this bill is not the answer. I challenge you to seriously consider the inevitable, negative repercussions this bill have if passed. No on 158.

Thanks for your time.

Shana McNamara

My name is Shana McNamara, and I am lobbying for myself. I'm writing to explain why SB 24-158 is a bad idea, and there are blatant reasons why. I am a proud Colorado Native. I am a Denver resident. I worked as a Registered Nurse for many years, as well as served in the U.S. Military. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns with you today.

I was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder at age 12. They started medicating me at age 13, with pharmaceuticals that we now know are extremely dangerous to prescribe to teenagers. Over the following years, I would take thousands of antidepressants (SSRI, SNRI, NDRI), anticonvulsants, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines. All of this before the age of seventeen. I often wonder how much more damage was done to my developing brain by all of those toxic chemicals. I spent the next 20 years struggling with Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Attention Deficit Disorder. If there's an acronym for it, I've probably been diagnosed with it. I trusted my doctor knew best, and complied with the pharmaceutical regimen prescribed to me, but to no avail. Finally, I received what is considered "last resort" treatment. I underwent electroconvulsive therapy, also referred to as "shock therapy," for three consecutive years. As a result, I cannot remember about half of my life. I also struggled with Substance Abuse Disorder at intervals from age 14. Further evidence that the pharmaceutical garbage they were feeding me did not work.

Twelve years ago, I beat a 5-year opiate addiction using kratom. Nine years ago, I found cannabis. The combination of these two plants has drastically improved my quality of life. I genuinely feel good. Happy. Grateful. And hopeful. Now, I take one itty bitty pill every day. And I smoke cannabis. And I take kratom. And I drink kava. And I microdose with psilocybin mushrooms (which are rapidly improving my memory). My memory, which was wiped out by traditional medicine. Now, I feel better than I ever thought possible. I'm a better person. I'm a better daughter, I'm a better sister, I'm a better friend, a better colleague, and most importantly, a better mother. It's hard to accept that I spent so many years being less happy than I could have been. People need to know that there is another way.

Think about the repercussions this bill, if passed, would have on veterans seeking some kind of relief from their pain. Anyone that is paying attention knows that the opiate epidemic, of unprecedented proportion, has become a national crisis. Plant medicines like ibogaine, psilocybin, and cannabis are effective and viable treatment options for opiate addiction and suppressing that information from the people that need it the most is unethical and inexcusable. Why would you not afford a veteran with PTSD, that the VA has failed, the opportunity to seek alternative therapy? Have they not earned at least that?

Plant medicine has saved my life, time and again. Why wouldn't I reach out to my neighbor, or friend, or anyone for that matter, who is now where I once was (addicted, hopeless, merely existing), to share my success story, advocate for alternative therapy, and offer hope for recovery. Traditional therapies have failed millions of people for decades. There is hope in plant medicine. Hope for many. This bill will cause harm, far more than it will reduce harm. You simply cannot combine plant medicines into the same category as dangerous narcotics like heroin and fentanyl. They are not the same.

I understand both sides often coin. I'm a mother, and I've been an opiate addict. I can't even begin to imagine the kind of pain that a parent experiences when they lose their child to a drug overdose, but don't inflict any further suffering on others by endorsing or passing this bill. The intention is noble. I agree with that much. But there are potentially devastating, unintended consequences of this bill. Passing it would only perpetuate suffering.

I am an honorably discharged U.S. Army veteran, and I do not appreciate having to stand up here, and petition and testify as to why my First Amendment right should be protected. I took an oath when I enlisted in the Army, to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As a lawmaker, you took a similar oath. I'm asking you to make a logical decision. Make the obvious choice. Vote NO on SB 24-158. I hope we, as Coloradans, can count on you to do the right thing. We need to protect children from internet predators, but this bill is not the answer. I challenge you to seriously consider the inevitable, negative repercussions this bill have if passed. No on 158.

Thanks for your time.

Shana McNamara

House Education

05/01/2024 Upon Adjournment

SB24-158 Social Media Protect Juveniles Disclosures Reports

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Susan Anzalone Against themselves	I am a registered Democrat in Castle Pines, 80108 and I strongly oppose this bill. I'm a physician practicing in Denver, CO. This bill is a clear violation of free speech. I understand that the intention of this bill is to protect children from dangerous drugs like high dose THC and fentanyl but limiting free speech is not going to protect them. This bill will prevent people from discussing natural substances that were decriminalized in the passing of SB23-290 "The Natural Medicine Health Act". It will also prevent people from discussing molecules that are currently in phase 2 and phase 3 clinical trials. I was recently a subinvestigator on the MindMed LSD trial for generalized anxiety disorder. If I were to post our positive phase 2 results or make a post suggesting that LSD might be helping for people suffering from GAD, I would be removed from Facebook and/or Instagram. Additionally, other substances such as MDMA are currently being fast tracked by the FDA for priority review for treatment of PTSD. People should have the right to discuss these molecules on social media. We need to protect free speech. Of course we need to protect our children from the insidious threats of THC, fentanyl and guns, but let's find another way to do it!
Elizabeth Grambau Against themselves	I disagree with the passing of this bill. I disagree with taking our billy to advertise services that have more than proven to benefit so many people in this country struggling with addiction, PTSD, Trauma, and mental health disorders. I understand it's important to protect juveniles from accessing information, services and substances harmful to them, which is why the hundreds of fake accounts directly selling illicit substances for order through social media should be banned immediately. However with established businesses and healing centers, that take these plant and psychedelic medicines seriously and provide a rigorous screening process, by banning the promotion of services offered on social media you take away the ability for adults to find healing practices and build community support around the legal consumption and practice of these natural and indigenous medicines in the state of Colorado. Please reconsider how harmful this could be to the many people using these social platforms to find

	<p>the healing they not only should have the freedom to seek out, but the ability to find access all together. Thank you for your time in hearing my testimony.</p>
<p>Joshua Jansen Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senators,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the passing of this bill. While I understand the importance of protecting juveniles from accessing harmful information, services, and substances, I believe that banning the advertisement of well-established and beneficial services for individuals struggling with addiction, PTSD, trauma, and mental health disorders is misguided.</p> <p>It is crucial to prioritize the immediate banning of the numerous fake accounts that directly sell illicit substances through social media platforms. However, established businesses and healing centers that take plant and psychedelic medicines seriously and implement rigorous screening processes should not be subject to the same restrictions.</p> <p>By prohibiting the promotion of these services on social media, you are effectively limiting the ability of adults to find healing practices and build community support around the legal consumption and practice of these natural and indigenous medicines in the state of Colorado. This bill, if passed, could be detrimental to the many individuals who rely on these social platforms to access the healing they have the right to seek out and the ability to find altogether.</p> <p>I kindly request that you reconsider the potential harm this bill could cause and reevaluate its impact on the well-being of those in need of these services. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.</p> <p>Sincerely, Joshua Jansen</p>
<p>Robert Haley Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose any and all infringements on the 1st amendment, the bill of rights being the basis of our society. This bill is poorly worded, and directly attacks freedom of speech, including that of legal substances in Colorado. It will have far reaching, and likely intended consequences. We decriminalized mushrooms a few years ago, and like anything great, you come in after the fact and try to muck it up.</p>

	<p>This is a huge step backwards, and definitely medical industrial complex motivated.</p> <p>One facet of this all encompassing bill is fentanyl. By restricting speech around it, you will reduce awareness of it. Including test kits, which actively prevent unintended overdoses. When people are free to discuss things, generally they find reasonable solutions. After all this country became spectacular directly due to people freely discussing and collaborating.</p> <p>I am confident you will pass this half written and half a##ed bill irregardless of what anyone says. Why is the democratic party trying to take power of speech and focus it in the hands of the executive? You guys should be trying to expel ignorance around important topics, not increase it.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>
<p>Andrew Bond Amend themselves</p>	<p>While I agree that social media should be safer for youth with safeguards minimizing their exposure and access to adult themes, substances, and contacts, legislation should not undermine citizens' 1st and 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution. Therefore, I recommend amending SB 24-158 to, "maintain freedom of speech rights regarding law abiding citizens de-stigmatizing natural medicines, further identifying beneficial uses as supported by clinical trials and other legitimate means, and creating communities for adults to freely discuss and align regarding the health and spirituality aspects of natural medicines. Meanwhile, social media sites should serve their customers first and maintain a protected public forum that does not infringe upon the 4th Amendment, while improving controls that enable parents to elect settings that protect underage users from accessing adult content and bad actors in the social media space."</p>
<p>Victoria Cumberbatch Against themselves</p>	<p>As a constituent of Julie Gonzales and Tim Hernandez, I'd like to recommend they vote no to this bill. I moved to Colorado from NJ, in order to safely exercise more of my privacy and the option of preventative healthcare. To not be a burden on the system, I choose to live my life with the plethora of alternative medicines that CO offers through facilitated, regulated and licensed guidance. It's my choice to remain unmedicated by pharmaceuticals for the maintenance of my ADHD, PCOS and pregnancy. Privacy, choice, and</p>

	<p>freedom of speech are vital pillars of this country and especially this state, I ask that my representation vote no. Thank you,</p>
<p>Martha Hammel Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear legislative members,</p> <p>I am speaking on behalf of myself, as a 21-year Colorado resident, a former Colorado high school student, and the Executive Director of the Aspen Psychedelic Resource Center.</p> <p>I commend you for supporting legislation aimed at protecting children on social media. I believe that SB-158, as written, will only make the problem worse.</p> <p>The bill requires social media companies to ban and report any user who "promotes, sells, or advertises an illicit substance."</p> <p>This language will unintentionally prevent the proliferation of essential public health information regarding harm, including information about fentanyl testing and overdose prevention.</p> <p>I predict that a ban on information sharing will only INCREASE deaths from illicit substances.</p> <p>When I was a teenager in the early 2000s, abstinence-only sex education was prevalent throughout the state and Colorado had one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country. When education shifted to a risk-reduction approach, teen pregnancy rates plummeted.</p> <p>Abstinence-only drug education is no different. Please respect the intelligence of the youth and let them make good decisions with complete information.</p> <p>Please remove the "promote and advertise" language from the bill. It is already illegal to sell drugs on the internet. Go after those selling drugs, not those educating about them.</p> <p>-Martha Hammel</p>

	Snowmass Village, CO
--	----------------------

My name is Kiyana Newell, and I'm the Policy Manager at New Era Colorado, a nationally recognized, nonpartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging young people in the political process. New Era Colorado urges the committee to amend SB 24-158, as we believe data privacy, freedom of expression, and online mobility take precedence when considering the rights and freedoms of young people online.

This bill needs to be amended to protect young people of color and queer folks' data privacy. Additionally, we believe the bill needs to be amended to limit their interaction with law enforcement because it poses a risk to young people of color as well as queer and trans people.

The bill requires social media companies to surveil the promotion of sale or advertisement of illicit substances and sex trafficking of a juvenile. We must recognize that we are living in a time where drugs used in abortion or gender-affirming care could be defined as "illicit", and helping someone seek abortion or gender-affirming care in states where it is legal could be defined as "trafficking."

SB189 also requires social media companies to obtain user data for up to a year and fulfill **any** law enforcement requests for data within 30 days of the request. Perhaps most concerning, this bill prohibits social media companies from "*alerting a user to the fact that a law enforcement agency is investigating the user's activity and account.*" This provision would allow juveniles' data privacy to be breached without a warrant and without notification that they are being investigated. This would pose a significant safety risk for young people of color and trans people who are seeking reproductive and gender affirming care in Colorado, particularly from law enforcement in states where these services are being criminalized daily. We know law enforcement over-policies people of color, and queer folks. This bill, though well intentioned, creates an extremely unsafe environment for young people in this state.

We are also concerned that this bill enables law-enforcement to unfettered access to juvenile user data. 1) First, collection of specific data from users would require more data safeguarding from companies, creating a bigger target for hackers and data breaches. 2) High surveillance of young people creates a chilling effect from social media, a place where young people can access resources and educational materials, that restrict freedom of choice, expression, and online mobility. 3) those who use these social media mediums often seek information about reproductive health and find community, particularly with queer and trans folks; the bill leaves room for defining repro health information as a violation creating a margin for censorship risk.

New Era Colorado calls on the proponents of this bill and the education committee to re-evaluate what is at stake here. Young people deserve privacy. This bill undermines their civic protections, and endangers their access to abortion care and gender-affirming care. In particular, this bill will compromise people of color and trans folks safety because they are over-policed by law enforcement. Allowing police unfettered access to young people's data is a dangerous precedent to set and will put thousands at risk who are seeking life-saving services in Colorado after the fall of roe. Thank you for your time on this bill, and we urge you to amend SB24-158.

Dear Colorado Representatives and Education Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding SB 24-158, the Social Media Protect Juveniles Disclosures Reports bill. As a registered nurse and advocate for digital health, I believe this bill, if enacted, could have significant negative consequences for both online freedoms and law enforcement capabilities in Colorado.

First and foremost, SB 24-158 contains provisions that could compromise individual liberties and hinder due process. By prohibiting social media companies from alerting users about law enforcement investigations, the bill effectively mandates secrecy orders without proper oversight.

Criminalizing education on platforms that's children access is important for harm reduction. Putting your proverbial heads in the sand hoping kids don't learn about medicine and medication, drugs and drug abuse. My 17 Your old daughter said kids need access to accurate education on these substances that are legalized or decriminalized in the state of Colorado.

Cannabis was recommended to be moved to schedule 3 on the controlled substance list, because of all of its medical benefits, and lower risk of addiction and abuse. But if this bill passes I wouldn't be able to educate on that. Cannabis nursing is a recognized specialty of the American nurses association, if this bill passes I wouldn't be able to educate on that.

the bill's requirements for age verification raise serious constitutional and cybersecurity concerns. Requiring users to upload sensitive information for verification could lead to privacy breaches and expose individuals to potential hacking threats. Additionally, the bill's broad language regarding prohibited speech, particularly regarding the promotion of certain substances, risks infringing upon First Amendment rights to free speech. SB 24-158 mandates data retention practices that could attract hackers and increase the risk of data breaches. Instead of promoting data minimization to protect user information, the bill imposes burdensome requirements on social media platforms without adequately addressing cybersecurity concerns. Additionally, the bill's reporting requirements could pose compliance challenges for smaller platforms and potentially compromise law enforcement investigations. Requiring platforms to disclose details about reported content to law enforcement agencies could compromise ongoing investigations and undermine efforts to combat unlawful activity online. I urge you to reconsider the provisions of SB 24-158 and ensure that any legislation aimed at regulating social media platforms strikes a balance between protecting individual rights and enabling effective law enforcement efforts. It is essential to safeguard Americans' First and Fourth Amendment rights while also facilitating the investigation and prosecution of crimes in the digital age.

Sincerely,

Erica Cowan, RN NC-BC Thrive Health Consultants LLC

Buenas tardes Madam Chair, members of the committee,

Many thanks to Attorney General Weiser, Representatives Lukens and Frizell, and the coalition of parents, law enforcement, community members, young people, pediatricians, working together to bring this bill forward today.

As a Latina, as a mother, as a fellow elected official representing more than 300,000 people living in Boulder County, I am requesting your partnership in addressing the overdose crisis that is the number one killer of people 18-45 in the US today. As you have heard today, young people are making easy fentanyl, firearms, and other life-threatening purchases online, and yet, our laws have not kept pace with this rapidly innovating landscape of online platforms and social media where sales are made in a matter of minutes to young people across our state.

All of us have noticed how much time many young people currently spend engaged on platforms like TikTok, Instagram, SnapChat and others that frankly I'm not even aware of. Gallup recently found that more than 50 percent of people 13-19 spend 4 hours or more a day on social media. As the place where young people are gathering, social media has also become a major platform for the sale of drugs, firearms, and other illicit material. SB 158 takes key steps to bring Colorado statute into the 21st century to address to study, prevent, stop, and enforce against the sale of life threatening and other illegal substances and activities.

As part of a Boulder County Fentanyl community task force, I am concerned about online access that can lead to increasing fentanyl deaths in our communities and the easy sale of fentanyl online. Guns and gun violence continue to harm kiddos in the city of Longmont where I live and our state of CO.

I understand there is concern about unintended consequences on youth who identify as LGBTQ and that amendments will be brought forward today to address the concerns. Thank you to everyone who has worked on those amendments together.

We need your yes votes to ensure our communities and all of Colorado can make sure ordering a lethal dose of fentanyl is not as easy as ordering a pizza or an Uber. Boulder County respectfully requests your Yes vote today in support.

Commissioner Marta Loachamin

Fwd: SB 158 Boulder County support.

Barbara McLachlan to Katie Ruedebusch

History:

This message has been replied to.

04/30/2024 09:43 AM

Please add this to the record. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Trina Faatz <trinafaatz@gmail.com>

Date: April 30, 2024 at 9:11:51 AM MDT

To: judy.amabile.house@coleg.gov, ryan.armagost.house@coleg.gov, jennifer.bacon.house@coleg.gov, shannon.bird.house@coleg.gov, rod.bockenfeld.house@coleg.gov, andrew.boesenecker.house@coleg.gov, scott.bottoms.house@coleg.gov, mary.bradfield.house@coleg.gov, brandi.bradley.house@coleg.gov, kyle.brown.house@coleg.gov, marc.catlin.house@coleg.gov, chad.clifford.house@coleg.gov, lindsey.daugherty.house@coleg.gov, ken.degraaf.house@coleg.gov, chris.kennedy.house@coleg.gov, monica.duran.house@coleg.gov, regina.english.house@coleg.gov, elisabeth.epps.house@coleg.gov, gabe.evans.house@coleg.gov, lisa.frizell.house@coleg.gov, meg.froelich.house@coleg.gov, lorena.garcia.house@coleg.gov, eliza.hamrick.house@coleg.gov, anthony.hartsook.house@coleg.gov, tim.hernandez.house@coleg.gov, leslie.herod.house@coleg.gov, richard.holtorf.house@coleg.gov, Iman.Jodeh.house@coleg.gov, junie.joseph.house@coleg.gov, cathy.kipp.house@coleg.gov, sheila.lieder.house@coleg.gov, mandy.lindsay.house@coleg.gov, william.lindstedt.house@coleg.gov, stephanie.luck.house@coleg.gov, megghan.lukens.house@coleg.gov, mike.lynch.house@coleg.gov, javier.mabrey.house@coleg.gov, bob.marshall.house@coleg.gov, matthew.martinez.house@coleg.gov, julia.marvin.house@coleg.gov, tisha.mauro.house@coleg.gov, Julie.Mccluskie.house@coleg.gov, karen.mccormick.house@coleg.gov, barbara.mclachlan.house@coleg.gov, David.Ortiz.house@coleg.gov, jennifer.parenti.house@coleg.gov, rose.pugliese.house@coleg.gov, Naquetta.Ricks.house@coleg.gov, manny.rutinel.house@coleg.gov, emily.sirota.house@coleg.gov, marc.snyder.house@coleg.gov, matthew.soper.house@coleg.gov, tammy.story.house@coleg.gov, rick.taggart.house@coleg.gov, brianna.titone.house@coleg.gov, alex.valdez.house@coleg.gov, elizabeth.velasco.house@coleg.gov, stephanie.vigil.house@coleg.gov, ron.weinberg.house@coleg.gov, mike.weissman.house@coleg.gov, jenny.willford.house@coleg.gov, don.wilson.house@coleg.gov, ty.winter.house@coleg.gov, steven.woodrow.house@coleg.gov, mary.young.house@coleg.gov

Subject: SB 158 Boulder County support.

Greetings House Representatives,

I testified for SB 158 at the Senate hearing but am unable to testify tomorrow, May 1. Please accept my testimony here as it is very important to us as Boulder County constituents. The Boulder County Commissioners and District Attorney's Office fully support this bill as well.

Dear Senate Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Trina Faatz and I work as the Substance Use Advisory Group Opioid Outreach Navigator for Boulder County. I also run a program that presents in high school classrooms in Boulder County and the state of CO. Lastly, I offer evidence based parent classes across the state under the CO Behavioral Health Administration to parents who's child of any age is struggling with a substance use disorder.

I have worked with over 600 families and have presented to over 3000 students in the past 7 years! We know that youth are accessing illicit substances in greater and greater numbers through the internet every year. Their contacts and reach are through social media platforms, and they receive these substances in the mail or delivered to their address within hours to a day or two. There is no oversight of solicitation of substances (drugs) on these social media platforms, and no age verification. The reach of these platforms is incredible and well meaning youth are introduced to, or permitted to, find drugs easily and without any repercussions while these sites continue to ignore the laws they are supposed to utilize to protect their users.

Marginalized groups are especially at risk. LGBTQ youth are highly vulnerable and use social media platforms often for mental health outlets and substances. This is often inappropriate and puts them in extremely high risk situations and approachable to predators selling substances.

I feel this bill must be passed to protect youth from the ever expanding and increasingly dangerous use of the internet on social media. We only see this worsening and without adequate controls, and we cannot expect youth to understand or interpret how to identify what they are actually purchasing and if it is safe, or unfortunately for many, deadly.

Thank you so much for reading this and listening to my opinion.

Trina Faatz

Trina Faatz MA, Peer and Family Specialist, COPA; Parent Peer Recovery Coach, CCAR; Acudetox Specialist, NADA.

Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group(SUAG), Facilitator: Boulder County Public Health Dept.

Youth in Recovery, Founder/ Program Director: Stories of lived experience and recovery, naloxone training and fentanyl/ addiction education for high school audiences.

Community Reinforcement and Family Training for Parents (CRAFT), Instructor/Facilitator: Signal of CO, Boulder County

Thanks!
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: MaryLiz Callaway <maryliz.bouldermomsdemand@gmail.com>

Date: May 1, 2024 at 1:11:02 PM MDT

To: ryan.armagost.house@coleg.gov, jennifer.bacon.house@coleg.gov, shannon.bird.house@coleg.gov, rod.bockenfeld.house@coleg.gov, andrew.boesenecker.house@coleg.gov, scott.bottoms.house@coleg.gov, mary.bradfield.house@coleg.gov, brandi.bradley.house@coleg.gov, kyle.brown.house@coleg.gov, marc.catlin.house@coleg.gov, chad.clifford.house@coleg.gov, lindsey.daugherty.house@coleg.gov, ken.degraaf.house@coleg.gov, chris.kennedy.house@coleg.gov, monica.duran.house@coleg.gov, regina.english.house@coleg.gov, elisabeth.epps.house@coleg.gov, gabe.evans.house@coleg.gov, lisa.frizell.house@coleg.gov, meg.froelich.house@coleg.gov, lorena.garcia.house@coleg.gov, eliza.hamrick.house@coleg.gov, anthony.hartsook.house@coleg.gov, tim.hernandez.house@coleg.gov, leslie.herod.house@coleg.gov, richard.holtorf.house@coleg.gov, Iman.Jodeh.house@coleg.gov, junie.joseph.house@coleg.gov, cathy.kipp.house@coleg.gov, sheila.lieder.house@coleg.gov, mandy.lindsay.house@coleg.gov, william.lindstedt.house@coleg.gov, stephanie.luck.house@coleg.gov, meghan.lukens.house@coleg.gov, mike.lynch.house@coleg.gov, javier.mabrey.house@coleg.gov, bob.marshall.house@coleg.gov, matthew.martinez.house@coleg.gov, julia.marvin.house@coleg.gov, tisha.mauro.house@coleg.gov, Julie.Mccluskie.house@coleg.gov, karen.mccormick.house@coleg.gov, barbara.mclachlan.house@coleg.gov, David.Ortiz.house@coleg.gov, jennifer.parenti.house@coleg.gov, rose.pugliese.house@coleg.gov, Naquetta.Ricks.house@coleg.gov, manny.rutinel.house@coleg.gov, emily.sirota.house@coleg.gov, marc.snyder.house@coleg.gov, matthew.soper.house@coleg.gov, tammy.story.house@coleg.gov, rick.taggart.house@coleg.gov, brianna.titone.house@coleg.gov, alex.valdez.house@coleg.gov, elizabeth.velasco.house@coleg.gov, stephanie.vigil.house@coleg.gov, ron.weinberg.house@coleg.gov, mike.weissman.house@coleg.gov, jenny.willford.house@coleg.gov, don.wilson.house@coleg.gov, ty.winter.house@coleg.gov, steven.woodrow.house@coleg.gov, mary.young.house@coleg.gov

Subject: SB24-158 Social Media Disclosure

Dear Representative,

Today, May 1st, I intended to testify in support of SB-158. Because of a last-minute schedule change in the Education Committee, I can no longer speak in person about the critical need for at least some modest state regulation of social media companies. My daughter has been permanently harmed because of the lack of effective blocking technologies and the ability of adults to harass and sell prohibited material to legal minors.

Growing up, my daughter was friends with an older boy who lived across the street. They were also friends on SnapChat and Instagram. When she was 12, the boy became interested in dating her and she responded by ignoring him. When she was 14, he posted on his SnapChat story that he was going to kill himself if she didn't agree to date him. She called his mother and his mother began to monitor him to make sure he remained safe. This made him angry and he started to harass her on social media.

My daughter reacted by blocking his number, the only tool that was available 7 years ago on SnapChat and Instagram. The boy then created new accounts that evaded her blocking attempts. He would film her as she walked around the neighborhood and then send the videos to her, so that she would know she was being watched.

Regrettably, our daughter never told us about the intimidation. The neighbor followed my daughter's movements and sent messages to her through social media for a total of 4 years. Significantly, he was harassed her for 2 years after he became a legal adult and she was still a minor.

Partially because of the anxiety my daughter felt knowing she and our house were constantly being watched by the neighbor, she started smoking cannabis at the age of 15. Ironically, she made arrangements to purchase cannabis through a friend-of-a-friend on SnapChat. Later after experiencing some legitimate trauma while she was in college, her reliance on THC became unhealthy and she eventually had to enter a rehab facility.

Incidentally, when my daughter returned to Colorado, she bought a self-defense kit on TikTok. Photos from previous

purchasers of the kit showed that a “self-defense flashlight” was included with the kit. This flashlight turned out to be a taser-like stun gun. My daughter was never asked to verify her age, even though selling stun guns to minors is allegedly prohibited.

Taken together, the lack of regulation of social media made it far too easy for my daughter to be sexually harassed, to purchase marijuana as a minor, and to inadvertently purchase a potentially dangerous device as an adult. My daughter remains fearful of many situations and has not yet broken her dependence on marijuana. SB156 is an important first step in protecting the children of Colorado and I urge you to vote yes.

Sincerely,
Mary Elizabeth Callaway



May 01, 2024

The Honorable Barbara McLachlan, Chairwoman
Education Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
200 E Colfax
RM 307
Denver, CO 80203

Chairwoman McLachlan:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Committee with comments on SB24-158 and discuss Meta's commitment to providing safe, age-appropriate experiences online.

Helping young people stay safe online is one of the most important challenges facing families, parents, and our industry today. We want young people to connect with friends and family in an online environment where they and their parents feel supported, and we want them to leave our apps feeling good about the time they spend on them. Like you, Meta is committed to the safety and wellbeing of young people, which is why we have worked with leading experts in mental health, child development, digital literacy, and more to develop more than [50 tools and resources](#) to support teens and empower parents to be involved in their teen's online experiences.

For example, on Instagram, we automatically make accounts private for teens under 16 when they sign up, we restrict unconnected adults from messaging teens and we turn off the ability for under 16s to receive messages from people they don't follow or aren't connected to, by default. This means, by default teens can only be messaged or added to group chats by people they follow or are already connected to, and we default new teen users who are under 16 into the strictest setting for our sensitive content control which limits the types of content teens can see. Additionally, we [show teens notifications](#) to take regular breaks from Instagram, [prompt teens to turn on Quiet Mode](#) when they're on the app for several minutes at night, and [notify teens](#) that it might be time to look at something different if they've been scrolling on the same topic for a while. We also offer other [supervision tools, including features](#) that empower parents and teens to work together to set time limits and schedule breaks, allow parents to see who their teen follows and who follows their teen, and enable teens to notify their parents when they block or report someone. Youth safety is a complex and shared challenge, and we remain committed to constantly improving our efforts to keep teens safe online.

While our company recognizes the goals of SB24-158, we believe this bill, as currently drafted, not only fails to empower parents to make the decision regarding whether their

teen may use a social media platform but also fails to create robust, industry-wide standards that help parents and teens manage their online activity.

- **HB24-158 will arm bad actors to evade detection measures, making people less safe—not more safe**
 - The bill needlessly requires platforms to make public highly granular details about their content moderation, safety, and integrity practices, creating a blueprint for bad actors to circumvent them. Publicly providing some of the elements required here would allow scammers or predators to game our systems, defeating the safety goals of the legislation.
 - Users may feel less comfortable reporting bad actors if platforms are required to disclose information pertaining to user reports. For example, users might be concerned that their information could be shared with law enforcement; that law enforcement might contact them about their report; or that someone they reported might learn who reported them through law enforcement records.
 - Additionally, compiling the unnecessarily burdensome reports mandated by the bill will require platforms to collect and retain more data about users.

- **HB24-158 violates Coloradans' privacy and the 4th Amendment**
 - The bill requires platforms to retain data for one year, even if the user attempts to delete it or there is otherwise no business need to retain it. The requirement to retain user data for one year is inconsistent with standard industry privacy commitments.
 - Requiring providers to retain user data for one year may also violate the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and exceed the government's preservation authority under the Stored Communications Act (SCA).
 - Additionally, the bill requires the retention of data at the government's sole direction and without the government establishing that the preservation is reasonably related to the collection of evidence in a criminal investigation.
 - Under the bill, Social media companies must alert law enforcement before informing a platform user that an investigation about them is occurring, and provide law enforcement a 90-day grace period to obtain a proper court order to delay notice. This may prevent social media platforms from continuing the current privacy-protective practice of striving to notify users when law enforcement has obtained a court order for their records, which affords users the opportunity to contest the disclosure in court.

- **HB24-158 will require age verification for all social media account holders**
 - As currently drafted, the bill would require all new and current users of a social media service – from a 13 year-old in Denver to a 73 year-old in Grand Junction – to share possibly sensitive identifying information, such as a driver's license or birth certificate, to verify their age.

- This requirement raises significant data privacy and security concerns and would require every Coloradan to provide this sensitive information to every single social media app they use.
- Furthermore, the requirement for all users, including adults, to produce age verification data (such as state-approved documentation or a biometric scan) as a requirement of signing up for a social media account has been found to be likely unconstitutional by federal courts – for example, as in the preliminary injunction issued against Arkansas’ Social Media Safety Act ([NetChoice v. Tim Griffin](#)).
- **HB24-158 prevents platforms from utilizing safety features that keep users safe**
 - Requiring limits or opting out of algorithms may create a less safe experience for teens. Algorithms are central in creating a better, safer, and more personalized experience online. In particular, they work to de-prioritize (or filter) content that may be inappropriate, particularly for teens, and are vital to efforts to identify, block, and remove content.
 - Legislation focused on reducing the effectiveness of algorithms that are designed to give users a relevant and age-appropriate experience could undermine the safety and security of users and undermine the safety goals of this legislation and desired protections.
 - We have content recommendation controls, known as “Sensitive Content Control” on Instagram and “Reduce” on Facebook, that make it more difficult for people to come across potentially sensitive content or accounts in places like Search and Explore.
 - We are starting to restrict teens from seeing certain content, even if it is from friends or family. We also use algorithms to shield people from content they indicate they do not want to see.
 - Personalization can make a teen’s experience on social media more relevant and more aligned with what their parents may expect, rather than that of a generic teen. If we can’t serve content based on relevance it makes it harder for a teen to find relevant content. Prohibiting recommendation systems would be like throwing library books on the floor and expecting a teen to sort through them to find the relevant book rather than displaying them in an easily-accessible format.
 - Additionally, the bill has other provisions that impact providing a safe experience for minors.
 - The requirement to apply juvenile protections to any user creates a risk that an adult who is a bad actor could utilize youth-only features, communicating with youth they would normally be restricted from messaging, or even manipulating parental supervision tools by designating other adults as their “parent”.

- Some of the leading age verification companies are located outside of the US. The requirement for age verification companies to principally operate in the United States would limit the ability to use those methods.

Given these concerns with SB24-158, we encourage the Colorado legislature to consider the following principles in your approach to youth safety legislation:

- **Require parental consent for teens under 16 at the app store / OS level:** require parental consent for users under 16 to download all apps other than general online services (e.g., search, email) at the app store / OS level, instead of in each individual app.
- **Age verification requirements should be mandated at the app store / OS level:** require age to be provided and verified at the app store/OS level, instead of each individual app.
- **Enable robust parental controls:** require certain apps, including social media apps, to offer some form of supervision tools for users under age 16 that parents can activate to help guide and support teens, such as the ability to set daily time limits on their teen's use, see which accounts their teen is following or friends with, and more.
- **Develop consistent content standards:** require industry to develop consistent age appropriate content standards across the apps teens use.
- **Limit ads targeting:** require industry to develop ad targeting and delivery standards that, for example, limit the personalization of ads for users under 16 to age and location only.
- **Ensure responsibility for teen safety online is not narrowed to select social media platforms:** teens move fluidly from one app or service to the next and carving out specific apps from state regulation will leave teens and parents with inconsistent protections.

Recent research supports some of these principles – for example, [research](#) indicates the vast majority of U.S. adults support requiring parental consent for teens to create a social media account. But technology is constantly changing and keeping up with all the apps teens use can feel impossible for every mom, dad, or guardian. As an industry, we should come together with lawmakers to create simple, efficient ways for parents to oversee their teens' online experiences.

That's why, at Meta, we have called for legislation that would require parental consent at the app store-level for teens under 16 to download an app. Such an approach would provide parents the ability to ensure their teens are not accessing adult content or apps they don't feel comfortable with their teens using and would allow parents to oversee

and approve their teen's online activity in one place rather than requiring them to keep up with different consent mechanisms for every app their teens use.

Further, an app store solution helps preserve privacy by limiting the collection of potentially sensitive identifying information, like government IDs. Instead, this approach leverages the parental approval system for purchases that *app stores already provide today* – meaning there is no need for parents and teens to share a government ID or other personal information with every one of the thousands of apps out there.

To be sure, while we believe an app store solution is the most efficient and effective means to empower parents to manage their teens' online experiences, such a solution in no way supplants the work that our company will continue to undertake to protect teens, support parents, and ensure all of our users have positive, meaningful experiences on our apps.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments to your committee and look forward to working collaboratively with you in the days ahead.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ana Martinez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ana Martinez
State Policy Director, Western U.S.
Meta Platforms, Inc.

Tools, Features, Partnerships, and Research

Features and tools we've developed to help support parents and age-appropriate experiences for teens on our apps:

- We use [age detection technology](#) and [age verification](#) to help parents ensure that their teens have age appropriate experiences, This includes limiting the types of content that teens see and who can see and interact with them.
- We [automatically set teens' accounts \(U16\) to private](#) when they join Instagram and Facebook. Additionally, we do not allow people who teens don't follow to tag or mention them, or to include their content in Reels Remixes or Guides. These are some of the best ways to help keep young people from hearing from adults they don't know, or that they don't want to hear from.
- We [seek to prevent unwanted interactions between teens and adults where there is a more than two-year age gap](#). We've made changes that restrict adults from messaging teens who don't follow them on Instagram. For example, we seek to prevent unconnected adults from initiating DM conversations with teens, although we permit people aged 18 and 19 to send private messages to their peers within a two-year age gap to allow for connections between classmates and friends. We also show Safety Notices if an adult who a teen *is* connected with tries to DM them.
- We've [developed technology to help prevent suspicious adults from engaging with teens](#). We work to not show young people's accounts in Explore, Reels or 'Accounts Suggested For You' to these adults. If they find young people's accounts by searching for their usernames, we work to prevent the suspicious adults from following teens. We also work to prevent suspicious adults from seeing comments from young people on other people's posts, and from leaving comments on young people's posts.
- We work to limit the [types of content teens can see in Explore, Search and Reels with our Sensitive Content Control](#). We're automatically placing teens into the most restrictive content control setting on Instagram and Facebook. We already apply this setting for new teens when they join Instagram and Facebook, and we've now expanded it to teens who are already using these apps. Our content recommendation controls – known as "Sensitive Content Control" on Instagram and "Reduce" on Facebook – make it more difficult for people to come across potentially sensitive content or accounts in places like Search and Explore.
- [We don't allow content that promotes suicide, self-harm or eating disorders](#). Of that content we take action on, we identify over 99% before it is reported to us. We're now blocking more Search terms related to suicide, self-harm and eating disorders on Instagram - making it less likely they'll be able to find this content in Search.
- We've started hiding content from teens altogether that doesn't violate our CS, but might be more sensitive and less appropriate for them.
 - This includes content that discusses peoples' struggles with self-harm and eating disorders, or that promotes the use of certain regulated products, such as tobacco or vaping, or that might be sexually suggestive.
- We show [expert-backed in-app resources](#) when someone searches for, or posts, content related to suicide, self-harm, eating disorders or body image issues. They see a pop-up with tips and an easy way to connect to organizations like NEDA in the US. We also have a dedicated reporting option for eating disorder content.
- We prompt teens to **review and update their settings** to the most private settings on Instagram in a single tap with new notifications.

Tools we've built to help foster a supportive and positive experience for teens:

- We [show teens notifications](#) to take regular breaks from Instagram. Take a Break shows full-screen reminders to leave the app.
- We [prompt teens to turn on Quiet Mode](#) if they're on the app for several minutes at night. Quiet Mode gives teens more ways to focus and set boundaries with friends and family. Once on, we won't show any notifications, activity status will [change](#) to 'In quiet mode' and an automatic reply is sent when people receive DMs.
- We [notify teens](#) that it might be time to look at something different if they've been scrolling on the same topic for a while.
- [We give people the option to hide 'like' counts](#), so they don't have to show others 'like' counts on their own posts or see likes on other peoples' posts.
- We show people a warning if they try to post an offensive comment. The warning reminds them of our Community Guidelines and that we may remove or hide their comment if they proceed to post.
- We give [teens the option to turn on 'Hidden Words'](#) for comments and DMs. Once on, offensive comments and DMs will be hidden, and people can add any emojis, words or phrases to the filter.
- We make it easy for teens to [use Restrict to prevent bullying](#). We developed Restrict specifically for teens, because they told us they wanted a more subtle way to block bullies without them knowing they'd been blocked.
- We let people [easily manage what recommended content](#) they see in Reels, Search and Explore. You can select 'Not Interested' on posts in Explore, and we'll aim to show you less of this kind of content anywhere you might see recommendations.
- We give people ways to [avoid seeing specific topics in recommended content](#). If you say you don't want to see things like "recipes" or "fitness," we'll work to prevent showing you content with those words in the caption or hashtag.

Features we've developed to help parents guide and support their teens:

- We've [developed supervision tools](#) that let parents and teens work together to see how much time their teen is spending on Instagram and to set time limits, see who their teen follows and who follows their teen, and to be notified when their teen reports or blocks someone.
- We've built a [Family Center](#) to help teens and families build healthy online habits. It includes expert-backed guidance to help teens have safer online experiences using our technologies.
- We offer [tools and resources](#) to help support parents, guardians and teens on Instagram and in VR and to help teens spend more meaningful time online.
- We have a [Parents Guide](#), developed in partnership with experts like The Child Mind Institute and ConnectSafely, that gives parents easy ways to talk to their teens about safety and well-being on Instagram.

Partnerships we've built with some of the world's leading experts and safety organizations:

- We [consult regularly with our Youth Advisors](#): a group of external experts across online safety, privacy, media literacy, wellness, social and emotional health. Our Youth Advisors advise on app development, new policies and more ways to support teens.
- We look to our [Safety Advisors](#), comprised of independent safety organizations around the world to inform our overall approach to safety.

- **We've formed and meet regularly with our Body Image Expert Circle**, a group designed specifically to help create new tools and policies that seek to improve teens' feelings about body image and eating disorders.
- **We [work in collaboration with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#) to help address content that could potentially exploit children.** Specifically, we've funded NCMEC's hash-sharing platform that helps thwart the proliferation of young peoples' intimate images.
- **We partnered with The Jed Foundation to [develop our 'Pressure to be Perfect' program](#)**, which connects teens and parents with resources on how to manage pressures teens may feel to look or act a certain way online.
- **We launched a Digital Leadership program in [partnership with Girl Scouts USA](#).** The Program helps prepare girls with the skills they need to navigate online spaces and includes activities, conversation guides and education on topics like managing social comparison and balancing time online.
- **We created a [Well-being Creator Collective](#), in partnership with experts, to fund and educate creators on how to develop content that inspires teens and supports their well-being.** Our Expert Steering Committee includes Dr. Linda Charmaraman, Director of Youth, Media and Well-being Research Lab at Wellesley Centers for Women; Dr. Robin Stevens, Director of the Health Equity and Media Lab at USC and Dr. Earl Turner, Founder of Therapy for Black Kids.
- **We [joined Google, Microsoft and 15 other tech companies to form Project Protect](#)**, a plan to help combat online child sexual abuse as part of the broader Technology Coalition.
- **We joined Discord, Google, Mega, Quora, Roblox, Snap, and Twitch to form [Project Lantern](#)**, a new cross-platform signal sharing program for companies to strengthen how they enforce their child safety policies.

What Research Says:

- Mental health is a **complex, individualized issue**, but scientific research **does not support** the assertions made in this bill.
- Consistent with other research, a recent consensus [study by the National Academies of Science](#) **found no basis to conclude that social media has caused a negative shift in teen mental health.**
- The [National Academies of Sciences study](#) also discusses a growing body of research that suggests **social media can play a positive role in teens' lives and provide support to those who are struggling.** Similarly, an [April 2023 Pew study](#) reported that **80% of teens surveyed felt that social media helped them stay more connected to what's going on in their friends' lives and 67% feel like they have people on social media who can support them** through tough times.