

Nile Anderson  
MACADEMY School for Science and Technology  
1/23/2024  
8th grade

Greetings. My name is Nile Anderson and I am 12 years old and in the 8th grade at MACADEMY School for Science and Technology in Brooklyn, NY. Thank you to the Chairwomen and members of the Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways and Means Committee for allowing me to testify in support of the Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids Act and The New York Child Data Protection Act. In today's society children get addicted to the internet and have their personal information shared online, but our Governor Kathy Hochcul and our Attorney General Letitia James are passing bills to protect children like me in the State of New York; (1) the stop addictive feeds exploitation for kids act is to stop children from being addicted to the internet, (2) the New York data protection act stops children under 18 from having their information shared to the public, (3) the bills help children with their mental health on the topic of social media.. Moreover, these bills show that children need to be monitored on the internet and to help the mental health of the current day.

The stop addictive feeds exploitation for kids act is to stop children from being addicted to the internet. Children get addicted because of the dopamine released in the brain. Dopamine makes you feel pleasure and makes you want more of it. This is why today's generation is addicted to the internet and ruin's children's mental health. The algorithm of your brain like the internet keeps feeding what seems to bring you pleasure. This keeps children like myself up at night, messing up their sleep schedules, makes children sleep deprived, messing up their physical and mental health while they're unaware because the algorithm keeps giving them more things to look at.

The New York data protection act stops children under 18 from having their information shared to the public because it makes children's information easy to steal and use. This can also expose children to people who lie about who they are to get other things like parental credit card information, social security numbers, and addresses. This can lead to bad things happening to the child or the parental guardian whose information might be stolen by a stranger. This can also affect children's safety and mental health. For example, recently in the news, there was an adult man communicating with a child on social media. He lied to the child by telling her that they were the same age but he ended up being a grown man. The bad things that happened to her as a result of them meeting can affect that child's mental health leading to possible anxiety and depression.

The bills help children be safe on the internet and protect their mental health so that children who were hurt by the internet or who may be hurt by the internet can be protected. One of the reasons

the suicide rate for children is so high is that they are killing themselves over social media. Once the bill is passed and the internet is being monitored the suicide rate for children should go down. The disease of the internet that is spearheading through the minds of children like me is to be curbed after the bills are passed. The mental health of most children should be better because the internet is being watched. This can also help the mental state of today's generation in society to become more aware and to be better in citizens.

It is well documented that children's brains are not developed enough to make decisions on their own. Sometimes we may make a decision that isn't always in our best interest. We are fortunate that the legislature is considering this bill so that my friends and I can continue doing what we like while being safe and protected from people on the internet with bad intentions. These bills are going to help many children in New York which may inspire other states and countries to do it as well, which would help the world. The world will become safer and more algorithmically clear for children, like me, to use, so that it is safe and we are still able to do the things we like on the Internet.

Thank you!