



**Chair Zach Stephenson**

Commerce, Finance, and Policy Committee  
100 Rev Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Room 10  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Stephenson and Committee Members,

We are parents, grandparents, and other Minnesota residents who care about kids, and we're writing because Minnesota needs the Age Appropriate Design Code Act. (HF 2257, Rep. Kristin Bahner and Rep. Steve Elkins.)

Families are in crisis. We're fighting every day to protect our kids from depression, cyberbullying, eating disorders, dangerous viral "challenges," exposure to drug use and to sexual predators – all of which are fueled by social media for big tech profits. These dangers have life-threatening consequences for children. Teens who spend five or more hours a day on social media are [71% more likely to have one or more risk factors for suicide](#) than those who spend less than an hour a day. That's a terrifying number when you consider that 81% of 14 to 22 year-olds said they use social media either "daily" or "almost constantly."

This constant use is by design. Social media companies engineer their products to keep kids online as much as possible – through algorithms, notifications, and endless scrolling – because it makes them money. These manipulative tactics harm users, especially the youngest and most vulnerable. Regulating the tech products our children use is way overdue. We have nutrition labels on food packaging, rigorous testing for cribs and car seats, and yet the technology most children use daily has few to no safeguards.

More than 80% of Americans say they want laws that force social media platforms to take steps to make kids safer online. We agree with President Biden, who in his State of the Union address said that "we must hold social media platforms accountable for the experiment they're conducting on our children for profit." But families can't wait for Congress to act. Minnesota has the opportunity to lead the nation in protecting children online and prioritizing young people's mental, physical, and emotional health over profits for private companies. The best way to do that is design codes.

Design codes are proven to work to protect children. The UK implemented the Age Appropriate Design Code in September 2021. Since then, tech companies have made changes to products

that children use to ensure their data isn't needlessly collected and that product design is not detrimental to their health and well-being.

We believe Minnesota children deserve these protections too, and we need your help getting them for our kids.

We call on Minnesota lawmakers to put children's interests ahead of those of the tech industry by supporting the Age Appropriate Design Code Act.

Sincerely,

Sara-Jane Wilson  
Minneapolis, MN

Janine Morgan  
Eden Prairie, MN

Nancy Schumacher  
Duluth, MN

Roxanne Friedenfels  
St. Louis Park, MN

Marylyn Irrgang  
Mankato, MN

Nan Stevenson  
St Paul, MN

Don Hon  
Minneapolis, MN

Kathleen Todd  
Minneapolis, MN

Kay Beams  
Eden Prairie, MN

David Undlin  
Apple Valley, MN

Barbara Klucsar  
Blaine, MN

Niambi Jackson  
Shakopee, MN

Tom Clayton  
St. Paul, MN

Pamela Johnson  
Buffalo, MN

Cynthia Brockway  
Saint Paul, MN

Spencer Johnson  
Lake Lillian, MN

Mina Blyly-Strauss  
Minneapolis, MN

Lauren Kofsky  
Minnetonka, MN

Monica Allen  
Eagan, MN

Georgia Cady  
Minneapolis, MN

Danni Harding  
Saint Paul, MN

Robert Riskin  
Minneapolis, MN

Alan Shefland  
Minnetonka, MN

Doreatha Cannon  
Hopkins, MN

Michael Erickson  
Minneapolis, MN

Lynn C. Lang  
St. Cloud, MN

Richard Mammel  
Albert Lea, MN

M Rosanne Bootz  
Chanhsssen, MN

Elyssa Florea  
Northfield, MN

Eric Benson  
St Louis Park, MN

Christina Nguyen  
Hugo, MN

Brooke Diamond  
Minneapolis, MN

Jennafer Balgie  
Saint Paul, MN

Jennifer Baker  
Hinckley, MN

DeeDee Karssen  
Plymouth, MN

Julie Washburn  
Minneapolis, MN

Caroline Lyngstad  
Long Lake, MN

Matthew Saxe  
Crystal, MN

Nishiime Peltier  
Cass Lake, MN

Carolina Randall  
Corcoran, MN

David Berberick  
Maple Grove, MN

William Warnock  
Thief River, MN

Jimmie Bishop  
Minneapolis, MN

Wendy Walz  
Forest Lake, MN

Jeanne Claridge  
Eagan, MN

Theresa Delrosario  
St Paul, MN

Steph C  
Crystal, MN

Beth Cook  
Bloomington, MN

Kim Matushak  
St. Paul, MN

Mark Carlton  
Bloomington, MN

Tim meinke  
Minneapolis, MN

Ryan Baka  
Minneapolis, MN

Terrance Schrammen  
Saint Paul, MN

Nancy Hauer  
Saint Paul, MN

John Viacrucis  
Moorhead, MN

Christopher East  
Minneapolis, MN

Brandan Fiedler  
Chisholm, MN

Lonnie Houff  
Austin, MN

John AND Jean Fleming  
Lakeville, MN

Carol Frechette  
Shakopee, MN

Joella Berkner  
Inver Grove Heights, MN

Jim Bungarden  
Wells, MN

John Remkus  
Rosemount, MN

Elizabeth Ishmael  
Rice, MN

Mikaela Herzog  
New Hope, MN

Cindy Nguyen  
Minneapolis, MN

Dennis Alanen  
Saint Paul, MN

Austin Ihiekwe  
Cottage Grove, MN

Linda Mitchell  
Faribault, MN

Timothy Mullen  
Saint Charles, MN

Kat K  
Clements, MN

Bartley Dunn  
Minneapolis, MN

James Marsden  
Maplewood, MN

Amber Murphy  
Columbus, MN

Jessica Sovell  
Fairmont, MN

Michelle Sutton  
Duluth, MN

Ryan Sutton  
Duluth, MN

Shannon Doolan  
Richfield, MN

Mollie Schierman  
Plymouth, MN

Holly Petersen  
Eden Prairie, MN

Geoffrey Saign  
St Paul, MN

Bryan McCullough  
Proctor, MN

Rebecca Goldberg  
Minneapolis, MN

Juan Cardona  
Richfield, MN

Maria Dewitt  
Ely, MN

Scott Stamness  
Woodbury, MN

Sharon Fortunak  
St Paul, MN

Yolanda Latessa  
Shakopee, MN

Joseph Bracken  
Vergas, MN

Karen Johnson  
Minneapolis, MN

Brad Murphy  
Minneapolis, MN

Brad Berland  
Spring Park, MN

Vernetta Stewart  
Cottage Grove, MN

Gail Linnerson  
Saint Paul, MN

Peter Veits  
Burnsville, MN

Jason Nicholoff  
Minneapolis, MN

Nan Engelhardt  
Saint Paul, MN

Linda J Paselk  
Inver Grove Heights, MN

Julie Nordmeyer  
Cottage Grove, MN

Kathleen M Braud  
Little Falls, MN

Fran Hormel  
Minneapolis, MN

Brenda Dunlap  
Maple Plain, MN

Thomas Abraham  
Prior Lake, MN

O'Toole Jim  
Rochester, MN, MN

Marissa Ruiz de Somocurcio  
Robbinsdale, MN

Karen Rex  
Minneapolis, MN

Kristin Beamish-Brown  
Saint Paul, MN

Raymond Bissonnette  
Mahtomedi, MN

Jacob Eisen  
Thief River Falls, MN

Jason Husby  
Minneapolis, MN

Michael Heinsohn  
Columbia Heights, MN

Diane McLaughlin  
Richfield, MN