

LEGISLATION

The Kids Internet and Digital Safety Act: What Actually Changes for Your Family

By the DSK Research Team · November 2026

On June 29, 2026, the US House of Representatives passed the Kids Internet and Digital Safety Act 267-117 — a bipartisan package bundling 14 separate child-safety proposals, including a revised Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA). It's the most significant piece of federal online-safety legislation to clear a full chamber of Congress to date. It is **not yet law** — it still needs Senate passage and a presidential signature — but the provisions inside it are worth understanding now, because they show exactly where lawmakers, on both sides of the aisle, agree the real risks are.

IF YOU OR A CHILD YOU KNOW IS IN CRISIS RIGHT NOW

US: call or text

988

(Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), available 24/7. Or text

HOME TO 741741

(Crisis Text Line). To report exploitation, contact the FBI at

TIPS.FBI.GOV

or NCMEC's CyberTipline — you will not be putting your child in trouble by reporting.

267-117

the bipartisan House vote margin, June 29, 2026 — combining 14 separate child online-safety bills, including a revised Kids Online Safety Act, into a single package.

What's Actually Inside the Bill

Four provisions matter most for families:

- **Age verification requirements** for platforms likely to be accessed by minors — shifting the burden of confirming a user's age away from a simple self-reported birthdate.

- **Limits on "design features that result in compulsive usage"** — the bill's language directly targets infinite scroll, autoplay, and variable-reward notification patterns, the same mechanics DSK covered in our June 2026 issue on how the feed is built to keep kids scrolling.
- **Parental visibility tools**, giving parents the ability to see total time their child spends on a platform — without requiring full message-level monitoring.
- **An expanded COPPA**: the bill raises the age threshold for existing child-privacy protections from 12 to 17, and would ban targeted advertising to both children and teens under the revised law.

Why "Not Yet Law" Still Matters to You

A bill passing the House is a real signal, not a formality — it establishes what a bipartisan majority considers baseline-necessary protection, and it's the version the Senate will now negotiate from. But nothing in it is enforceable yet, and platforms have no new legal obligation today because of this vote. The practical risk for parents is treating a headline about "kids' safety law passes" as if the protections already exist. They don't. Every setting you'd want this law to force a platform to change is still something you have to set yourself, today, the same as before this vote.

THE ONE SENTENCE THAT MATTERS MOST

This bill describes the protections lawmakers now agree platforms should be providing by default — treat that list as a checklist for what to verify yourself this week, not as something already handled for you.

A Parallel Shift in the UK

The US isn't alone in tightening requirements this year. As of April 2026, platforms in scope of the UK's Online Safety Act face a materially stricter duty: they must now proactively **report** detected child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) content to the UK's National Crime Agency, rather than simply removing it and moving on. Removal-only was always a lower bar — it let harmful content and the accounts producing it disappear from view without law enforcement ever learning a pattern existed. Mandatory reporting closes that gap for UK-scoped platforms specifically, and it's a preview of the direction international regulation is heading more broadly: from "make it go away" to "make it visible to investigators."

"Two things are both true: this is real momentum, and it changes nothing in your house until it's signed into law. Keep doing the checks you're already doing." — DSK Research Team

What Parents Can Do This Week (Regardless of What Congress Does)

- Check whether your child's most-used app already has a "time on platform" report you can see — most major platforms added one in 2025-2026 even ahead of any legal requirement.
- Review notification settings together and turn off anything designed purely to pull them back in (badge counts, "someone's typing," streak-loss warnings).

- ❑ Ask what happens if they report something that turns out to have been AI-generated — a growing number of the sextortion and grooming cases we cover in this Journal now start with a fake image or voice.
- ❑ Don't wait for age-verification mandates to do your own check: review what platforms are actually installed against the age rating on the app store listing.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO

Pick one platform your child uses daily and find its actual screen-time report this week. If it doesn't have one, that's useful information too — it tells you where a manual check-in still has to be the plan, law or no law.

Resources

- FBI tips: tips.fbi.gov
- NCMEC CyberTipline: CyberTipline.org or 1-800-843-5678
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988
- DSK Legislative Tracker: digitalsafetyknights.org/legislative-tracker.html
- DSK Emergency Help: digitalsafetyknights.org