

Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Markup
Committee on Energy and Commerce
December 11, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Bilirakis. We are here today to take a decisive step in fulfilling our responsibility to the American people: advancing comprehensive solutions to protect our children and teens online.

The data is clear, and it is alarming. Nearly half of U.S. teens now report being online “almost constantly.” And children who spend more than three hours a day on social media face double the risk of developing serious mental health outcomes, including depression and anxiety.

As we discussed in our legislative hearing last week, there is no single solution to solve a problem this complex. That is why the legislation before us today is not one bill, but a carefully crafted set of solutions designed to work together like pieces of a puzzle.

These bills focus on several key themes.

First, we are focusing on safety by default, ensuring that platforms are designed to protect kids from the start, rather than placing the burden on a kid or their parent to navigate complex privacy settings.

Second, we modernize COPPA to extend existing privacy protections to teens.

And third, we are empowering parents with the tools they need to oversee their children's digital lives—whether that is approving app downloads or managing privacy and safety settings.

We have been intentional and thoughtful in shaping these proposals to ensure strong protections for kids while maintaining legal durability and effectiveness. And we remain committed to working with parents, industry, experts, and other stakeholders to continue strengthening this package.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Ranking Member and all of our colleagues to deliver a bipartisan framework that provides certainty for families while ensuring the safest possible environment for our kids.

I yield back.