



August 29, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1394 (Wicks) Social Media Platform Liability for Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking - COSPONSOR

Dear Chair Portantino:

Common Sense Media is proud to cosponsor AB 1394, which addresses the soaring rates of child sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking online by holding social media platforms accountable to survivors when platforms knowingly facilitate, aid, or abet child exploitation or trafficking. The bill has minimal direct cost to the state and recent amendments drafted by the Senate Judiciary Committee facilitate enforcement of this critical legislation.

[Social media companies are aware](#) that sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking of children are originating on their platforms, and with [kids spending more time on social media](#) – many of them on for nearly an hour and a half every day – they are increasingly vulnerable to these threats.

One quarter of 9- to 17-year-olds report having had a [sexually explicit interaction online](#) with someone they believed to be an adult. Since 2000, traffickers have recruited [55% of sex trafficking victims online](#), usually through social media. In 2021, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline received [29.3 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation](#) (up 35% from 2020).

AB 1394 prohibits social media platforms from facilitating, aiding, or abetting commercial sexual exploitation of children. This includes platform designs, features, or affordances that the social media platform knows, or should know, cause child users to be victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Further, the bill requires platforms to provide a means for users to report materials and consequently, when notified, to permanently block these images or videos of children, helping survivors to reduce fear of repeated victimization.

We respectfully request your “Aye” vote on AB 1394.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kami Peer".

Kami Peer
California Policy Manager
Common Sense Media