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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) Bill #1 “the stop addictive feeds exploitation for kids act is to stop children from being addicted to the internet.”(2) Bill #2 “The New York data protection act stops children under 18 from having their information shared to the public. (3)Both bills help children with their addiction and mental health on the topic of social media. These bills are extremely important to show that children need to be monitored on social media platforms to reduce the algorithmic dangers to our young developing brain and provide the mental health services to restore our children’s essential brain development.

“The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation For Kids Act” aims 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 it ruins children’s mental health. The algorithm affects the Neocortex, Amigdale, and Hippocampus by using optogenetics which causes the brain to over produce dopamine. This regulation of the brain causes the addiction of the internet to keep feeding what brings pleasure. This keeps children like myself up at night regulating our sleep patterns and schedules. This addictive behavior makes children sleep deprived and disrupts their physical and mental health. Furthermore, “The New York data protection act” is essential.

“The New York Data Protection Act” stops children under 18 from having their information shared with the public because it makes children's information easy to steal and use. This can also expose children to people who are mendacious about their identity as they pretend to be children. This is very dangerous because of bad influences and discrimination and disturbing conversations have resulted in death consequences. Many children have committed suicidal acts and some died. According to the centers for disease control and prevention (CDCP), over 100,000 children have killed themselves. In addition, both bills would help children with their addictions and mental health on the topic of social media.

These bills can also provide protection for children who are targeted because of their innocence and lack of knowledge about the victimization of themselves and their families. children's safety and mental health. For example, recently in the news, an adult man was communicating with a child on a social media platform. He lied to the child by telling her that he was the same age, but he ended up being a grown man. The devastating experience that happened to her as a result of them meeting affected that child's mental health leading to possible anxiety and depression. Moreover, these bills are extremely important to show that children need to be protected and monitored on social media platforms.

The bills would both help children be safe on the internet and protect their mental health so that children who are addicted and were hurt by the atrocious internet platforms 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 bills are passed and the internet is being monitored the suicide rate for children should go down. The disease of the internet that is a threat to children's proper brain development and spearheading through the minds of children like me causing addictive behaviors that can destroy our lives must be prevented. After the bills are passed, the mental health of most children should be better because the internet is being watched. 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 is not always in our best interest. We are fortunate that the legislature is considering this bill so that my friends and I can continue to make the best decisions for the safety and development of our magnificent brain power.

These bills will help many children in New York and may inspire other states and countries to adopt these policies to assist the world to become safer and more algorithmically clear for children. This can also help the mental state of today's generation to become phenomenal change agents for the "Advancement of our Society."