



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew Gounardes

Sen. Gounardes: Supreme Court's Netchoice Opinion Is a Win for Kids and Parents Counting on New York's Internet Safety Laws

ANDREW GOUNARDES July 9, 2024

| ISSUE: **SOCIAL MEDIA, MENTAL HEALTH**



The Netchoice opinion offers states the flexibility to pass innovative consumer protection laws like New York's SAFE For Kids Act and Child Data Protection Act.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 9, 2024

*New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes released the following statement today in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's **decision** in the case *Moody v. Netchoice*:*

“The Supreme Court’s decision in the Netchoice case is a crucial, unexpected win for kids, families, teachers and all of us who worry about the safety and mental health of young people using social media.

“The research is clear: there’s a [disturbing link](#) between prolonged social media use and youth depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. New York State enacted my [Stop Addictive Feeds \(SAFE\) for Kids Act](#) and [New York Child Data Protection Act](#) to regulate two of social media's most harmful tools against young people: addictive algorithms and predatory data collection.

“In their decision, the Justices offer space for lawmakers to innovate and pass consumer protection laws, as long as they aren’t designed to exclude specific viewpoints. New York’s laws don’t regulate viewpoint or speech at all; they merely prohibit social media platforms from using algorithms to tailor content to specific users, sending them down a rabbit hole of addiction, doomscrolling and potentially harmful content.

“The Justices offer nuanced differentiation between different types of algorithms and content standards. In doing so, they make clear that laws governing social media with a legitimate government interest fall within the bounds of the First Amendment, and that big tech companies’ cynical attempt to exploit free speech protections to shield themselves from regulation will not work.

“Despite what tech companies claim, keeping kids online with content they didn't sign up for has nothing to do with free speech or an open internet: it's a cash grab, and our children are paying the price. This ruling is a signal that we don’t have to accept the unchecked power of massive social media firms, and we can take action to protect our children.”

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Establishes the Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids act prohibiting the provision of addictive feeds to minors

October 13, 2023

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Establishes the New York child data protection act

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