

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize a Federal report and longitudinal study regarding the effects of social media on users under age 18.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HAWLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize a Federal report and longitudinal study regarding the effects of social media on users under age 18.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Social Media
5 Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SHORT-TERM STUDY.**

7 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
8 States, in partnership with any other Federal agency the
9 Comptroller General may designate, shall study the impact
10 of social media technologies on the mental and physical

1 health of social media users under age 18, with particular
2 attention to assessing current circumstances and expected
3 trends. Such study shall aim to assess in particular any
4 relationship between social media use patterns and the fol-
5 lowing medical conditions:

6 (1) Suicidality.

7 (2) Anxiety.

8 (3) Depression.

9 (4) Eating disorders.

10 (5) Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

11 (6) Gender dysphoria.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
14 submit a report to Congress on the study required under
15 subsection (a).

16 (c) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any money in the
17 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
18 priated to the Comptroller General, for fiscal year 2023,
19 \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry
20 out the study described in this section.

21 **SEC. 3. LONGITUDINAL STUDY.**

22 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
23 States, in partnership with any other Federal agency the
24 Comptroller General may designate, shall study the impact
25 of social media technologies on the mental and physical

1 health of a cohort of social media users initially drawn
2 from the population of such users under age 18, with par-
3 ticular attention to the long-term effects of social media
4 technology use on the health of such users. Such study
5 shall aim to assess in particular any relationship between
6 social media use patterns and the medical conditions listed
7 in section 2(a).

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 10 years after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
10 submit a report to Congress on the study required under
11 subsection (a).

12 (c) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any money in the
13 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
14 priated to the Comptroller General, for fiscal year 2023,
15 \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry
16 out the study described in this section.