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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Bipartisan Coalition of Attorneys General Call for Congress to Require Surgeon General Warning on Social Media Platforms**

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 11, 2024)** – In a [letter](#) to Congress, Attorney General Anthony G. Brown and 41 other attorneys general have called on lawmakers to pass legislation requiring a U.S. surgeon general warning on all algorithm-driven social media platforms. The letter comes amidst growing scrutiny of social media companies for their role in generational harm to young people’s mental health.

The attorneys general cited growing bodies of research that link young people’s use of these platforms to psychological harm, including depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts in kids and teens. They also note how platforms feature enticing algorithmic recommendations, infinite scrolling, and a constant stream of notifications, which are designed to keep kids relentlessly engaged on the platforms, even at the expense of taking breaks, engaging in other activities, or sleeping

“Every day, our youth are turning to social media platforms that, unknowingly to them, are designed to exploit their vulnerabilities and push them deeper into cycles of anxiety, depression, and self-doubt,” said Attorney General Brown. “Congress must safeguard the well-being of our youth and ensure they are protected from the harm lurking behind swipes and clicks.

States have already taken historic action to hold platforms accountable for the harm they have caused young people. For instance, in October 2023, Attorney General Brown along with 41 other attorneys general brought a [lawsuit](#) against Meta alleging that the company knowingly designed and deployed harmful features on Instagram and its other social media platforms with the intent of addicting children and teens.

Despite efforts to address the harms caused by social media platforms, the coalition of attorneys general submitting the letter say the need for federal action is clear. The coalition says more action is necessary because “social media platforms have demonstrated an unwillingness to fix the problem on their own.”

In signing the letter, Attorney General Brown joins the attorneys general of Alabama, American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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