

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION. PASS CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION IN 2023!

September 6, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

Maya Jones* was only 12 when she began receiving direct messages on Instagram from a man she didn't know. The man made her feel special – so when he asked her for nude photos, Maya complied. These interactions quickly escalated to meeting in person, which ultimately led to Maya being sex trafficked through Instagram. Even after she walked through the doors of a drop-in center for youth, the photos and videos her trafficker made continued to be sold online. The direct messages from sex buyers kept coming. In 2021, at the age of 15, Maya **died from an overdose of drugs** given to her by the man she met on Instagram.

Maya would still be alive today if Instagram was required to protect our youth—if products and platforms were designed with Maya's interests centered. Not to mention: it's an egregious violation of federal law and human rights that criminal child sexual abuse material (CSAM) was circulated by Instagram.

Maya's story is one of many. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipLine receives reports about multiple forms of online child sexual exploitation. CSAM comprises the largest reporting category by far. Over 99.5% of the reports received by the CyberTipline in 2022 involved incidents of suspected CSAM; there were 31.9 MILLION reports of child pornography in 2022, a 90% increase from 2019.¹ These are astronomical numbers—and they represent real children.

The undersigned organizations, including survivors of child exploitation and sex trafficking, urge you to bring a package of complementary child protection bills to the floor for a vote. We urge you to include **EARN IT (Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies) Act of 2023; Kids Online Safety Act of 2023; Project Safe Childhood Act; REPORT Act (Revising Existing Procedures on Reporting via Technology)** ; and **STOP CSAM Act (Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment)**. These child protection bills are an essential remedy to the rampant online circulation of CSAM:

- [EARN IT Act \(S.1207\)](#) – Gives victims of child sexual abuse material the right to sue digital platforms that knowingly circulate criminal content; gives victims a chance to restore privacy. Establishes commission to monitor potential online harms. Gives new tools to NCMEC. Replaces "child pornography" with "child sexual abuse material" in federal law.
- [Kids Online Safety Act \(S.1409\)](#) – Creates a legally relevant “duty of care” requiring online apps and platforms to center the needs of children. Requires online tools to safeguard children automatically. Creates more transparency by allowing researchers access to data regarding algorithms for example.
- [Project Safe Childhood Act \(S.1170\)](#) – Modernizes DOJ's Project Safe Childhood Program to enhance law enforcement's response to online child sexual exploitation.
- [REPORT Act \(S.474\)](#) – Improves NCMEC's CyberTipline by requiring reporting of child sex trafficking and enticement (grooming). Extends retention period of reported material giving law enforcement more time to conduct investigations.

- [STOP CSAM Act \(S.1199\)](#) – Expands civil remedies for victims of online sexual exploitation. Requires removal of related exploitive visual depictions (REVD)

It is time to demand accountability from Big Tech. These mega-billion dollar actors are fully aware of the harms caused by their platforms and products—as we know from multiple Senate hearings in 2022. It is time that the Senate stands up to these platforms. Please bring these five vital pieces of legislation to the floor for a vote in September.

* Tragically, this case is real, although Maya’s name has been changed to protect family.

Sincerely,

139 Organizations & 22 Survivor Leaders

Ashlie Bryant, Founder & CEO
3Strands Global Foundation, California

Cynthia Jones, CEO
4givenministries, Oregon

Kameshree Moodley, Child Rights Activist
365 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Children, Alabama

Dawn Ferrer, Executive Director
A Fresh Start Clt, Inc., North Carolina

Dawn Ferrer, Executive Director
A Safe Place, North Carolina

Holly Wentz, Manager
Advocate for Justice for Children, Texas

Tammy Toney-Butler, President & Survivor Leader
A&K Ranch Ministries, LLC, Florida

Ashleigh Chapman, Founder & CEO
Alliance for Freedom, Restoration, and Justice (AFRJ), Georgia

Karen Ziegler, Director
Albany County Crime Victim & Sexual Violence Center, New York

Barbara Patch, Director of Programs & Operations
All Girls Allowed, Inc., Massachusetts

Kelli Cary, CEO
AncoraTN, Tennessee

Kym Kurey, President & CEO
ANew Life International, Inc., Florida

Kathleen Alcorn, CEO
Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Initiative, Illinois

Aaron Kahler, Founder & CEO
Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Initiative, North Carolina

Melissa Holland, Co-Founder & CEO
Awaken Reno, Nevada

Anna Quint, Executive Director
Banu Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Benton, Programs Director
Beloved Haven, North Carolina

Andrea Davis, CEO/Founder
Better Screen Time, Oregon

Marisa B. Ugarte, Founder & CEO
Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, California

Joyclyn Bell, Founder & Consultant
Breaking Generational Cycles, Oregon

Jennifer Gold, Director
Burke County Children's Advocacy Center, North Carolina

Camille Cooper, CEO
Camille Cooper/Augusta Associates LLC, Virginia

Austin Ruse, President
Center for Family & Human Rights (C-Fam), New York

Kym Nixon, Executive Director
Changing Destinies Ministry, North Carolina

Kate Wedell, Founder & Survivor Leader
Cherished LA, California

Craig Cobia, Ph.D., Co-founder & Chairman
Citizens for Decency, Idaho

Michael Overway, Executive Director
Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition, Florida

Jennisue Jessen, Survivor Leader & CEO
Compass 31, Colorado

Carl David, President
David David, Inc., Florida

Kristen Jenson, Founder & CEO
Defend Young Minds, Washington

Dina Alexander, CEO
Educate and Empower Kids, New Mexico

Beth Bell, Executive Director
BraveWorks, North Carolina

Rose Bronstein, Founder
The Bronstein Family Foundation, Illinois

Becky Rasmussen, CEO
Call to Freedom, South Carolina

Helen Depinto, Event Chair
Campaign Against Human Trafficking, Florida

Teresa Davidson, CEO
Chains Interrupted, Iowa

Laura Moussakhani, Founder
Chartered Waters Advocacy, Florida

Kim Mangiaracino, Executive Director
Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois

Ashley Jellison, Executive Director
Colorado Children's Alliance, Colorado

June Wallace, Founder
Community Campaign Against Human Trafficking – West Florida, Florida

Mary Bawden, Founder
Dance Awareness: No Child Exploited (DA:NCE), California

Maurine Molak, Co-Founder
David's Legacy Foundation, Texas

Jennie Beuer, Chief Mental Health Officer
Direct Access Counseling & Supportive Services, North Carolina

Donna Rice Hughes, CEO & President
Enough is Enough, Virginia

Christine Vineis, CEO
Families Against Social Media Addiction, Ohio

Dr. Lavern Deer, CEO
Female Development World Organization, Florida

Diane Amos, Executive Director
Free NOLA, Inc., Louisiana

Melissa Elliott, Executive Director
Gang Free Inc., North Carolina

Susan Munsey, Founder
Generate Hope, California

Rima Nashashibi, Founder & President
Global Hope 365, California

Crystal Isom, Director
Haven of Hope Children's Advocacy Center, North Carolina

Chelsey Wilson, Executive Director
Hope's Place Child Advocacy Center, Kansas

Jeri Moomaw, Executive Director
Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative, Washington

Tamra Jurgemeyer, Executive Director
Iowa Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers, Iowa

Brent Woody, Executive Director & Lead Attorney
Justice Restoration Center, Florida

Beth Wooten, LCSW, Founder
Kenna's Kindness Project, Florida

Michael Overway, Executive Director
Lee County Homeless Coalition, Florida

Thomas Campbell, President & CEO
Family Service of the Piedmont, North Carolina

Amy O'Rourke, President & Director of Operations
Free Network, Florida

Landon Starbuck, Founder & President
Freedom Forever, Tennessee

Deb Strahanoski, President & CEO
General Federation of Women's Clubs International, 50 States & District of Columbia

Daphne Houghton, Administrative Director
Genesis A New Beginning, North Carolina

Jennifer Taber, Program Director
Gracehaven, Inc., Ohio

Dotti Grover-Skipper, Founder
HeartDance Foundation, Florida

Michael Ferrare, Marketing Specialist
Innocent Lives Foundation, New York

Jeanne Allert, Executive Director
Institute for Shelter Care, Kentucky

Hena Zuberi, Director of Advocacy
Justice for All, Washington, D.C.

Alisa Jordheim, Founder/Director
Justice Society, Idaho

Tania Haigh, Executive Director
KIDS TOO, Illinois

Bren Journ, CEO
Legacy of Hope International, South Carolina

Tina Kadolph, President
Love Missions, Florida

Shandra Woworuntu, Founder & CEO
Mentari, New York

Blanca Saavedra, Co-Host
Mujeres En Resistencia, New York & New Jersey

Joe Laramie, Program Manager
National Criminal Justice Training Center, New Hampshire

Pam Strickland, Founder & CEO
North Carolina Stop Human Trafficking, North Carolina

Minta Moore, Founder & Executive Director
New Life Refuge Ministries, Texas

Francine Bono-Neri, Co-Founder & President
Nurses United Against Human Trafficking, P.A., Florida

Rebecca Murray, CEO
One By One, Tennessee

Molly Skye Brown, Advocate & Survivor
OWNA Corp., Florida

Heidi Olson, Founder & President
Paradigm Shift Training and Consulting, Missouri

Jan Edwards, President
Paving the Way Foundation, Florida

K.P. LoveJoy, Founder & CEO
Porn Free Colorado, Colorado

Michael Arena, Director
Magnolia Hope, North Carolina

Victoria Ricke, Manager
MercyOne Siouxsland Child Advocacy Center, Iowa

Dawn Hawkins, CEO
National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Washington, D.C.

Jan Erickson, Government Relations Director
National Organization for Women, Washington, D.C.

Allan Wright, Executive Director
New Jersey Family Policy Center, New Jersey

Jacquelyn Alutto, President
No Trafficking Zone, Texas

Dona Pierce, Executive Director
Oasis House, Ohio

Lori Schott, Advocate
Online Harm Prevention, Colorado

Alexander Delgado, Director of Public Policy
PACT (Protect All Children from Trafficking), New York

Sarah Siegand, Co-Founder
Parents Who Fight, Tennessee

Michael Chapman, Certified Recovery Life Coach
Polar Life Consulting, North Carolina

Robin Paterson, President
Pornography is Not Education, Colorado

Erin Walker, Director of Public Policy
Project STAND, Montana

Chris McKenna, Founder
Protect Young Eyes, Michigan

Heidi Provo, National Head of Moms Against
Trafficking & Case Manager
**Rahab's Daughters/Moms Against Trafficking,
Illinois**

Tammy Toney-Butler, President & Founder,
Survivor Leader
Reflective Spaces Ministry Corp., Florida

Allison Madrigal, Founder & CEO
Rescue America, Colorado

Susan Norris, Founder
Rescuing Hope, Georgia

Beth Bowman, CEO
Restoring Ivy Collective, Washington, D.C.

Thomas Nettesheim, Executive Director
Restoring Oaks, Florida

Jennifer Mason, Chair
**Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking
Task Force, South Carolina**

Yasmin Vafa, Executive Director
Rights4Girls, Washington, D.C.

Lauren Wilkie, Executive Director
Safelight Inc., North Carolina

Jana Goyenechea, Director of Programs
Scarlet Road, Washington

Kevin Metcalf, CIO
Sentinel Foundation, North Carolina

Samantha Vardaman, Strategy Advisor
Shared Hope International, Washington, D.C.

Courtney Schmackers, Executive Director
She Has A Name, Ohio

Niki Miller, Operations Specialist
Shield North Carolina, North Carolina

Patricia Witt, Management Services
SI/Mid-Atlantic Online Club, North Carolina

Joetta Venneman, Director OSEJ
**Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational
Leadership, Kentucky**

Sharon Winkler, Web Editor
Socialmediaharms.org, Georgia

Connie Cahoone, Executive Director
SOS, Inc. Kansas

Janet Ortenzo, President of Board of Directors,
**Southwest Florida Coalition Against Human
Trafficking, Florida**

Cassandra Smith, Director
Sparrow Place, Pennsylvania

Allysa McKenzie, Executive Director
**Stand Against Trafficking USA, North
Carolina**

Suzanne Baker Brown, CEO
Stepping Stones Network, Illinois

Jamey Caruthers, Executive Director, Texas – VP Policy
Street Grace, Texas

Sonya Ryan OAM, Founder & CEO
The Carly Ryan Foundation, Texas

Laura Parker, CEO
The Exodus Road, Colorado

Elizabeth Good, Founder & CEO
The Foundation United, Florida

Lisa Haba, Partner
The Haba Law Firm, P.A., Florida

Jean Gleason, HR Director
The Knoble, Georgia

Bradley Russ, Executive Director
The National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College

Russ Tuttle, President & Founder
The Stop Trafficking Project®, Kansas

Carolyn Potter, CEO
The WellHouse, Alabama

Sarah Nantel, Government Affairs & Policy Associate
The Woolf Group, Virginia

Heather Estus, Founder
The Worthy Ranch, Montana

Robin Levasseur, Survivor Advocate
Together With Love, Rhode Island

Audrey Boyles, SANE Clinical Coordinator
UNC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program, North Carolina

Terri Markham, Executive Director
Uprising, Wyoming

Susan Ingram, President
Walk Her Home, Pennsylvania

Felicia Ingram, Assistant Director of Operations
Wealth Management Ministries-Prevention Works Joint Task Force and Coalition

Dr. Cherie D. Lindsay-Chapman, Executive Director
Wesley Shelter, Inc., North Carolina

Jason Frost, President
Wired Human, Tennessee

Penny Ronning Co-Founder/Co-Chair
YCA Human Trafficking Task Force, Montana

Christine Cesa, Founder
You Belong, California

Yolanda Montgomery, Founder & Executive Director
Zoe Ministries of Delaware, Delaware

Survivor Leaders of Sexual Exploitation

Phillip Delatorre, Arizona

Tovah Smith, California

Jeanette Westbrook, Kentucky

Erin Shreder, Montana

Eileen Martinez, Nevada

Cristian Eduardo, New York

Nicole Dodrill, New York

Adrienne Livingston, Oregon

Robin Levasseur, Rhode Island

Holly Wentz, Texas

John Cloud, Washington

Christine Cesa, California

Gabrielle Totman, Florida

Teresa Forliti, Minnesota

Stephanie Anderson, Montana

Nicole Sullivan, New Jersey

Marion Kendall, New York

Amy Engle, Oklahoma

Joseph VanMyers, Pennsylvania

Victoria Galy, Tennessee

Andrea Brashear, Washington

Robin Miller, Washington