

In support of the

CHILDREN AND MEDIA RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT ACT
(CAMRA) S. 558 and H.R. 1367

December 12, 2019

Dear Senator / Member of Congress,

We are writing to encourage you to **co-sponsor the bi-partisan Children and Media Research Advancement Act**, S. 558 and H.R. 1367, known as CAMRA, to authorize funding through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the **impact that digital media and technology use has on the health and well-being of children**. CAMRA will help to identify evidence-based risks and opportunities to inform needed changes in technology and media and how it is used by kids. As the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world, the NIH has the unparalleled ability to support **long-term, independent, and rigorous research** in this critical but largely unexplored area.

Better understanding of the developmental impact of digital media and technology on infants, children, and adolescents is the first step to ensuring that families are able to harness the power of technology while limiting potential negative effects. One thing we know about kids today is that nearly all of them use digital devices. An estimated 98 percent of American children under eight have access to a mobile device at home. And numerous studies show that children are spending increasing amounts of time on devices. What we don't know enough about, however, is what impact the type of technology used, the media consumed, and the amount of time spent consuming it is having on children's health. From a child development perspective, there is evidence that technology can help foster inclusiveness for the differently abled, provide more personalized learning experiences, and cultivate children's ability to think creatively, reason systematically and work collaboratively. Still, more in-depth research studies on technology's impact on children's health and well-being are needed.

As leading industry, media, and advocacy organizations committed to the healthy development of all children, we strongly applaud this effort to bring scientific findings to better help families navigate the rapidly shifting media and technology landscape. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and please feel free to draw on us as a resource on issues related to children and technology.

Sincerely,

American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American School Counselor Association

Tim Powderly, Director of Federal Government Affairs, Apple

Tristan Harris, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Center for Humane Technology

Harold Koplewicz, MD, President and Founder, Child Mind Institute

Sandra L. Calvert, Professor of Psychology & Director, Children's Digital Media Center,
Georgetown University

Jim Steyer, CEO and Founder, Common Sense

Katie McInnis, Policy Counsel, Consumer Reports

Rachel Barr, Professor of Psychology and Director, Early Learning Project
Georgetown University

Antigone Davis, Global Head of Safety Policy, Facebook

Emma Morris, Global Policy Director, Family Online Safety Institute

Michael Bloom, Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs, Internet Association

Kathrine Kirk Muff, VP Social Responsibility and Engagement, The LEGO Group

Frederick S. Humphries, Jr., Corporate Vice President, U.S. Government Affairs, Microsoft
National Association of School Psychologists

School Social Work Association of America

Joseph Salvo, Esq., Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Sesame Workshop

Robert H. Lustig, MD, MSL, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, U.C. San Francisco

Carlos Monje, Jr. , Director of Public Policy & Philanthropy, United States & Canada, Twitter

Jenny Radesky, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Michigan Medical School