



I'm Rose Bronstein, my mission is to take action around social media-related harms, specifically, cyberbullying.

Thank you to Commissioner Miller and Cook County for leading the call to support social media safety legislation pending in Congress: KOSA and COPPA 2.0.

46% of our children are now being cyberbullied.

The phones in our children's pockets are dangerous weapons – because of social media. They manipulate our children with features known to be harmful, like self-deleting messages and addictive algorithms. These features are killing our children ... we know it. But they remain on the platform because they increase engagement, and profit ... while our children are dying.

Unfortunately, I am here to tell you, as a mother, a parent, that the few, meaningless laws meant to protect our children from the changing risks of social media are in urgent need of updating.

I know this because on January 13, 2022, I lost my son Nate Bronstein, forever 15, to suicide after he was viciously cyberbullied by Latin School of Chicago students.

Through a group text, Nate was viciously attacked and harassed. The bullies posted pictures of him with the intent to humiliate him, they used extreme profanity and racial slurs. Through Snapchat, Nate was threatened with physical and deadly harm including a message directing him to go kill himself.

One bully reposted a Snapchat message targeting Nate to 200 students.

Yet in Nate's case, despite his own documented report of being cyberbullied to the Latin School of Chicago's Dean – they broke Illinois law – The Latin School of Chicago did not notify us of Nate's documented cyberbullying report and told the bullies they did not violate school the school's zero tolerance bullying policy.

There's more. Survivor parents like us have suffered tragedies from social media-fueled harms such as: choking challenges, sextortion, drug trafficking, and suicide.

And so, today, I join in the call to pass KOSA and COPPA 2.0 to protect our children from dangerous social media features and prevent the unscrupulous collection of our children's private information.

I also call on Congress and Illinois to pass Sammy's Law: bipartisan legislation that will give parents the choice of third-party safety software to protect their children on dangerous social media platforms like Snapchat, Tik Tok, Discord and Instagram from pervasive, severe harms and sometimes deadly harms such as cyberbullying, sextortion, drug trafficking, dangerous online challenges.

We never thought that our son Nate nor our family would be victimized in such a horrific way, we have been served a life sentence of relentless grief and pain and we don't want another family to experience this.