



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

---

**File #: 23-4807, Version: 1**

---

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY DAY IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, social media can be a force for the greater public good, providing a means for beneficial entertainment, education, socialization, and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, social media has also demonstrably caused significant and widespread harm to the public, especially children; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a warning on May 23, 2023, stating that “there are increasing concerns among researchers, parents and caregivers, young people, healthcare experts, and others about the impact of social media on youth mental health” with such concerns including anxiety, eating disorders, depression, and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, social media is additionally used to facilitate cyberbullying, privacy invasion, fraud, human trafficking, sexual harassment, sexual predation, hate, and misinformation; and

**WHEREAS**, social media platforms are routinely used to facilitate the sale of illegal narcotics which has resulted in multiple deaths nationwide, and

**WHEREAS**, other segments of society such as domestic violence survivors are also at increased risk of social media-related harms; and

**WHEREAS**, a University of Chicago Crime Law Report noted that teachers and school administrators report that a large share of in-school conflicts originate in social media disputes; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have found that hate groups, terrorist organizations both domestic and foreign, left- and right-wing extremists, and street gangs are using social media platforms to recruit new members, threaten and harass individuals, incite violence, and post violent videos; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have further found that such groups further utilize social media as a way to communicate about and organize their activities including flash mobs and organized retail thefts which are significantly and adversely impacting businesses and communities throughout Cook County and across the country, and

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive approach on social media that promotes best practices across education, public policy, and technology increases our ability to protect families from these threats; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County should continue to undertake efforts to mitigate and prevent current and emerging social media-related threats, provide guidance to those at risk, and bring awareness to the benefits and challenges of social media; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing a Social Media Safety Day will serve to promote efforts and awareness for the protection of our families and communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President, Commissioner Donna Miller and Members of the Cook

County Board of Commissioners by the adoption of this Resolution hereby designates October 3, 2023, as Social Media Safety Day in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.