Legislation Details

File #:	24-5837 **Version:** 1	**Name:**	ESTABLISHING SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY DAY IN COOK COUNTY
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File created:	10/16/2024	**In control:**	Board of Commissioners
On agenda:	10/24/2024	**Final action:**	10/24/2024
Title:	PROPOSED RESOLUTION		

ESTABLISHING 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, this year, he has called on Congress to introduce a warning label on social media apps to highlight the potential harm they pose to young people; and

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

WHEREAS, additionally, 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

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WHEREAS, establishing an annual 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 Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners by the adoption of this Resolution hereby designates the 2nd Thursday in November as Social Media Safety Day annually in Cook County; and

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

Sponsors: DONNA MILLER, ALMA E. ANAYA, BRIDGET DEGNEN

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
10/24/2024	1	Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass

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