

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 56 (Bauer-Kahan) Social Media Warning Labels – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Caballero,

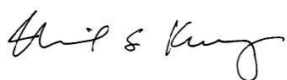
Omidyar Network, a California based philanthropic and investment organization committed to elevating humanity's interests and role in how technology is governed and held accountable, supports AB 56, which requires a covered platform to post a warning label on the health impacts of use of the covered platform. Our philanthropic and investment efforts have continued for more than two decades and stem from our founder's work at two great California companies, PayPal and eBay. We envision a world where our shared humanity steers our digital future. So far, we have committed more than \$1.94 billion to initiatives that share our vision.

We have seen the unique and challenging harms that can come from the use of social media, particularly by children. This is not to say that social media has not empowered people to connect across the world and created great value, but we cannot continue to ignore the clearly present risks. As noted in the Senate Health Committee Analysis, in 2023 the US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued an advisory highlighting the near ubiquitous use of social media by young people and its potential impact on their mental health.

By requiring a warning label, AB 56 will ensure that all users of covered platforms, young and old alike, understand the unique risks of the product without necessarily limiting its use by those people. These warnings are similar to how the government has provided warning on other products that have been shown to impact health in other ways. Empowering users by providing information will allow people to consider moderating or altering their use of social media without limiting their access to powerful tools that can help them engage in the world. .

Providing warning labels on these covered products will help inform and protect users of social media. Empirical evidence shows that excessive use of these covered platforms has the potential to negatively impact mental health of its users, particularly young users below the age of 18. A warning label is a simple step to provide more information to users and allow them to alter use, if they deem appropriate. **For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for this important measure.**

Sincerely,



Mike Kubzansky
CEO, Omidyar Network

cc: Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee