



Spokane County Republican Central Committee (SCRCC) Board Resolution,

June 1, 2021

Online Safety for Children and Families, Regarding Social Media and Social Platforms

Whereas, the Republican Party, supports the strengthening of Families & Community and recognizes that technology advancements are putting our children at risk in their growth and developmentⁱ; and

Whereas, social media seems to have a detrimental impact on the mental health of many of our teenagersⁱⁱ; and

Whereas, the increase in suicides and attempted suicides among minor children is being influenced by social media and their access to such technologyⁱⁱⁱ; and

Whereas, parents are unable to access all histories of their minor children's use of technology and digital communications^{iv} since many applications are designed to delete histories automatically, even though individuals participating in such communication can screen capture information which may have the consequence of creating a bully or toxic environment for nefarious activity; and

Whereas, social media sites collect and resell information through data brokers wherein users have no control^v; and

Whereas, parents have a right to understand what their children are communicating and how they are developing socially, and that having access to such communications is critical as parents work with their minor children to help them in their growth and development^{vi}; and

Whereas, minors can easily be coerced to meet-up with complete strangers^{vii} using technology; and

Whereas, if we are to create a level of trust between parents, youth, and agencies, we need to recognize that most parents have it in everyone's best interest to be always involved in important and *potentially life altering* decisions their teenager makes; and^{viii}

Whereas several organizations support the safety of children such as "National Center for Missing and Exploited Children", it is also imperative that our legislative bodies understand the importance of supporting the strengthening of "Parental Rights" and the "Strengthening of Families".

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Spokane County Republican Central Committee Board (SCRCC Board) supports the requirement that all technology and devices that have the potential of being used by children, including communications and the forwarding or receipt of pictures, videos, audios and so forth, must have the ability to be tethered to a Parent's computer so that if parents elect, they can review all data that is shared and/or captured as a result of the child's use.

Now therefore be it further resolved that the capture of such information may include information that could benefit parents as they engage law enforcement in the pursuit of those that are exploiting their minor children.

Now therefor be it further resolved that we expect all current and future elected leaders to support legislation that will ensure Technology supports Parental Rights as described above.

Submitted by Matt Hawkins, SCM, & Donna O'Leary, SCW, Spokane County

ⁱ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/8-scary-social-network-sites-every-parents-should-know_b_4178055

ⁱⁱ Impact on Teens and social media use [Mayo Clinic](#) (Ages 12-15, Two studies show correlation on more than 3 hours/day on social media may increase risk for mental health problems)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Does Social Media Have A Teen Suicide Problem? \(socialmediahq.com\)](#) journal: Clinical Psychological Science and [Study shows teenage girls who spend a lot of time on social media are at a higher risk for suicide \(strib.com\)](#)

^{iv} Apps such as Snapchat which has 41% of minors (ages 13-17) using their App an average 49 minutes/day with 25% sending sensitive content (including nude pics) that are automatically deleted. ([The Dark Side of Snapchat and Teens \(verywellfamily.com\)](#))

^v <https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-privacy-how-data-brokers-find-and-sell-your-personal-info.html>

^{vi} [Impact of Social Media on Youth - Positive & Negative Effects \(marketing91.com\)](#)

^{vii} YouTube see [Coby Persin](#)

^{viii} [7 Pros & Cons of Social Media for Teens and How Parents Can Monitor It - TiSPY](#), as well as [How parents manage teens' digital technology use | Pew Research Center](#)