

STOP CSAM Act of 2023 (S. 1199)

Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children
Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment Act of 2023

Sponsor: Senate Judiciary Chair Dick Durbin (D-IL)

CHILD USA and CHILD USAAdvocacy support the STOP CSAM Act of 2023 (S. 1199), a bill combating the alarming increase of online child sexual exploitation by requiring expanded protection measures for child victims and accountability and transparency throughout the tech industry.

About CHILD USA

CHILD USA is the leading national nonprofit think tank fighting for the civil rights of children. Our mission is to employ in-depth legal analysis and cutting-edge social science research to protect children, prevent future abuse and neglect, and bring justice to survivors. CHILD USA has engaged in amicus advocacy in both state and federal court on behalf of CSAM victims. CHILD USA's amicus briefs can be accessed here: <https://childusa.org/amicusadvocacy/>.

About CHILD USAAdvocacy

CHILD USAAdvocacy is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect by advocating for better laws for child protection. We draw on the combined expertise of the nation's leading child advocates, specifically our sister organization, CHILD USA. We are committed to protecting children's civil liberties and keeping children safe from abuse and neglect.

THE PROBLEM: While the world reaps the benefits of modern technology bringing about advances in civilization, new tech has also opened doors for predators. The internet created a new landscape for criminal activity and its increased access has revealed a dramatic rise in child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse material (CSAM). From 2009 to 2022, the number of victims identified in CSAM increased from 2,172 to a staggering 21,413 victims. Between 2012 and 2022, the number of reports to the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children's tipline for cybercrimes increased from 415,650 to over 32 million reports.

THE SOLUTION: The STOP CSAM Act of 2023 will hold tech companies accountable through various measures of reporting and transparency. Victims of child sexual exploitation can confront the tech companies that facilitated their exploitation with increased protections and safeguards. Further, tech companies will be held to a higher standard with increased accountability and transparency by requiring annual reports and hefty monetary penalties for noncompliance. Victims of online child sexual exploitation will have a streamlined process to bring a civil claim against tech platforms and app stores that intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently promote or facilitate online child sexual exploitation. Last, this bill provides a pathway for victims to request CSAM and related content be removed from tech platforms through the creation of an administrative penalty for failing to comply with a request.

We urge lawmakers to pass the STOP CSAM Act of 2023 (S. 1199) to prevent tech companies from benefitting from the sexually explicit material of children on their platforms. By working with tech companies to hold themselves accountable, the STOP CSAM Act of 2023 will lead the tech industry in a direction that makes the internet a safer place for children.

