



**ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
Legislative Bill**

Bill # 12

**Referred to Committee:
6**

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Action on the Bill

Assembly

Senate

___ Passed

___ Passed

___ Defeated

___ Defeated

1 **AN ACT TO:** Amend the Communication Decency Act of 1996 to create rigorous internet censorship laws for social
2 media websites.

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4 **The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:**

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6 **Purpose**

7 The purpose of this bill is to modernize the Communication Decency Act of 1996 to include a limitation on words,
8 phrases and photo images used on social media sites that adhere to young adolescents. To make internet social
9 media websites liable for words and images posted on their websites. It is also to stop adolescents from being
10 victimized through social media and holding the website's CEO accountable.

11
12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 Title 5, 47 U.S. Code 230 – Protection for private blocking and screening of offensive material.

14 **Section 1:**

15 (c) Protection for "Good Samaritan" blocking and screening of offensive material

16 (1) Treatment of publisher or speaker

17 All providers or users of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information
18 provided by another information content provider. This includes all social media internet websites.

19 **Justification**

20 Enforcing this change will save the lives of thousands of adolescents. By adding restrictions on words, phrases and
21 images on social media websites will only force these sites to create filters that will ban terms and images associated
22 with cyber bullying. According to Cyberbullying.org: "Approximately 34% of the students on our sample report
23 experiencing cyberbullying in their lifetimes. When asked about specific types of cyberbullying experienced in the
24 previous 30 days, mean or hurtful comments (22.5%) and rumors spread (20.1%) online continue to be among the most
25 commonly-cited. Twenty-six percent of the sample reported being cyberbullied in one or more of the eleven specific
26 types reported two or more times over the course of the previous 30 days. Facebook remains the most frequently cited
27 social media platform used on a weekly basis, but Instagram and Snapchat are increasing in popularity." According to
28 childguard.com: 41 deaths have occurred because of cyber bullying since 2003.

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30 **Fiscal Implications**

31 By implementing a fine, it would bring in revenue and compensations for victims and their families.

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33 **Effective Date**

34 This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.