

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a program on children and the media within the National Institute of Health to study the health and developmental effects of technology on infants, children, and adolescents.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SASSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a program on children and the media within the National Institute of Health to study the health and developmental effects of technology on infants, children, and adolescents.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Children and Media  
5 Research Advancement Act” or the “CAMRA Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
2 **EFFECTS OF MEDIA ON INFANTS, CHILDREN,**  
3 **AND ADOLESCENTS.**

4 Subpart 7 of part C of title IV of the Public Health  
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285g et seq.) is amended by adding  
6 at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 452H. RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH AND DEVELOP-**  
8 **MENT EFFECTS OF MEDIA ON INFANTS, CHIL-**  
9 **DREN, AND ADOLESCENTS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-  
11 stitutes of Health, in coordination with or acting through  
12 the Director of the Institute, shall conduct and support  
13 research and related activities concerning the health and  
14 developmental effects of media on infants, children, and  
15 adolescents, which may include the positive and negative  
16 effects of exposure to and use of media, such as social  
17 media, applications, websites, television, motion pictures,  
18 artificial intelligence, mobile devices, computers, video  
19 games, virtual and augmented reality, and other media  
20 formats as they become available. Such research shall at-  
21 tempt to better understand the relationships between  
22 media and technology use and individual differences and  
23 characteristics of children and shall include longitudinally  
24 designed studies to assess the impact of media on youth  
25 over time. Such research shall include consideration of

1 core areas of child and adolescent health and development  
2 including the following:

3           “(1) COGNITIVE.—The role and impact of  
4 media use and exposure in the development of chil-  
5 dren and adolescents within such cognitive areas as  
6 language development, executive functioning, atten-  
7 tion, creative problem solving skills, visual and spa-  
8 tial skills, literacy, critical thinking, and other learn-  
9 ing abilities, and the impact of early technology use  
10 on developmental trajectories.

11           “(2) PHYSICAL.—The role and impact of media  
12 use and exposure on children’s and adolescent’s  
13 physical development and health behaviors, including  
14 diet, exercise, sleeping and eating routines, and  
15 other areas of physical development.

16           “(3) SOCIO-EMOTIONAL.—The role and impact  
17 of media use and exposure on children’s and adoles-  
18 cents’ social-emotional competencies, including self-  
19 awareness, self-regulation, social awareness, relation-  
20 ship skills, empathy, distress tolerance, perception of  
21 social cues, awareness of one’s relationship with the  
22 media, and decision-making, as well as outcomes  
23 such as violations of privacy, perpetration of or ex-  
24 posure to violence, bullying or other forms of aggres-  
25 sion, depression, anxiety, substance use, misuse or

1 disorder, and suicidal ideation/behavior and self-  
2 harm.

3 “(b) DEVELOPING RESEARCH AGENDA.—The Direc-  
4 tor of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation  
5 with the Director of the Institute, other appropriate na-  
6 tional research institutes, academies, and centers, the  
7 Trans-NIH Pediatric Research Consortium, and non-Fed-  
8 eral experts as needed, shall develop a research agenda  
9 on the health and developmental effects of media on in-  
10 fants, children, and adolescents to inform research activi-  
11 ties under subsection (a). In developing such research  
12 agenda, the Director may use whatever means necessary  
13 (such as scientific workshops and literature reviews) to as-  
14 sess current knowledge and research gaps in this area.

15 “(c) RESEARCH PROGRAM.—In coordination with the  
16 Institute and other national research institutes and cen-  
17 ters, and utilizing the National Institutes of Health’s proc-  
18 ess of scientific peer review, the Director of the National  
19 Institutes of Health shall fund an expanded research pro-  
20 gram on the health and developmental effects of media  
21 on infants, children, and adolescents.

22 “(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year  
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of  
24 the National Institutes of Health shall submit a report to  
25 Congress on the progress made in gathering data and ex-

1 pending research on the health and developmental effects  
2 of media on infants, children, and adolescents in accord-  
3 ance with this section. Such report shall summarize the  
4 grants and research funded, by year, under this section

5 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
6 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
7 tion—

8 “(1) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022  
9 through 2024; and

10 “(2) \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
11 and 2026.”.