

## **Quotes from Maryland Educators & Leaders on the Harms of Unregulated Tech:**

“My friends and I can’t help but get on our phones to see what we’ve missed... limiting access to social media has had a positive impact on my mental health during the school day, and I hope that social media companies can find more ways to decrease the anxiety and depression my friends and I feel from social interactions online.”

- **Treeme Cannizzaro, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Hampstead Hill Academy, Baltimore City at a Press Conference on Class Action Suit Against Meta**

“Students in our district and across the nation are experiencing a growing mental health crisis because of social media companies and their addictive platforms...” “Our focus with this lawsuit is ensuring the well-being of our students and providing them with a healthy learning environment... (social media companies have made educating students) exponentially more difficult.”

- **Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent of Anne Arundel Schools on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“(Social media) hijacks normal, healthy thinking... it sucks up so much time and keeps the user wanting more and more. It’s not an overstatement to say it can steal big chunks of a childhood... the urge to check your phone is stronger than any consequence we have at school.”

- **Matthew Hornbeck, Principal, Hampstead Hill Academy, Baltimore City at a Press Conference on Class Action Suit Against Meta**

“(Baltimore) City schools have seen first-hand the negative mental health outcomes among students that reflect the most common symptoms of excessive social media use.”

- **Josh Civin, Baltimore City Schools Chief Legal Officer at a Press Conference on Class Action Suit Against Meta**

“I would really encourage parents to talk to their children about social media, the correct usage of social media, and also to just put those phones down every now and then and connect person to person.”

- **Dr. Cynthia McCabe, Superintendent of Carroll County Public Schools on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“What we've seen recently - the game changer - is the actual mental health impact social media is having on students during the school day when they are supposed to be learning.”

- **Dr. Jeffrey Lawson, Superintendent of Cecil County Schools on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“Hopefully this lawsuit provides pressure for some action in terms of how to better create products that are geared to children... a fake reality, at those pivotal developmental ages, has more of an impact on behavioral health... it also isolates you.”

- **Maria Navarro, Charles County Public Schools Superintendent on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“(Social media is) a huge distraction in our schools and in our classrooms... Students are lacking the ability to express their emotions in a positive way... we see a lot more negative expressions.”

- **Cheryl Davis, Principal, Henry E. Lackey High School on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“There is no respite... students leave for the day and the talking/anger continues onto Instagram or Snapchat, and then the students come to school upset over what is on social media.”

- **Nicholas Grey, Teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“Students in our district and throughout the nation are grappling with a mounting mental health crisis... our primary objective with this lawsuit is to safeguard the well-being of our students and provide them with the best learning environment possible.”

- **Dr. Cheryl Dyson, Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“Unfortunately, the mental health needs of our students are increasing exponentially, and the detrimental effects of addictive social media apps are making the jobs of educators so much more difficult... as a result, critical funding is having to be allocated to providing increased mental health supports so our students are able to focus on learning... this is an unnecessary burden, and it is crucial for these companies to acknowledge their responsibility in this crisis that profoundly impacts our youth.”

- **Antonia Watts, Chair, Howard County Board of Education on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“For too long these companies have exploited developing minds, contributing to a youth mental health crisis nationwide... schools feel the burden when kids come to school struggling to focus, depressed and in need of intensive mental health services.”

- **Bernard Hennigan, Director of Student Services, Howard County Public Schools on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“Our lawsuit says, ‘By intentionally funneling youths into addictive habits through the continuous use and reliance on their products, these social media conglomerates have achieved

brehtaking profits. But those profits come at a significant cost; the addictive behaviors that social media encourages—and, indeed, enables—has caused depression, anxiety, suicidal ideations, eating disorders, suicide attempts, and completed suicide among minors. Defendants knowingly exploited their most vulnerable users—children in Montgomery County and throughout the world—to drive corporate profit.”

- **Marc Elrich, County Executive, Montgomery County on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“We want to have people come and learn skills about how to manage their time how to manage stress how to support each other how to talk about difficult things and one thing that we realized is that just getting people together in a space to see that they’re not alone in helping them support each other and celebrate each other.”

- **Dr. Patricia Kapunan, Chief Medical Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“Our primary goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of our children, allowing them to learn and receive the highest quality education possible... unfortunately, students in our district and throughout the nation are confronting unparalleled mental health and learning challenges caused by their addiction to social media, intensified by detrimental algorithms and features. It is imperative that these companies take responsibility for their role in this crisis affecting our youth.”

- **Judy Mickens-Murray, Chair, Prince George’s County Board of Education on Class Action Suit Against Social Media**

“Our country is facing a youth mental health crisis fueled by young people’s extensive and compulsive use of, and reliance on, social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram... this has placed an entire generation of young people in jeopardy.”

- **Anthony Brown, Attorney General of Maryland General Assembly at a Press Conference on Class Action Suit Against Meta**

“As child and adolescent psychiatrists and pediatricians, we have seen firsthand how social media hurts our young patients’ mental health and well-being.”

- **From the Baltimore Sun Editorial: ‘Social media hurts’: Maryland doctors plead for action to protect young people / GUEST COMMENTARY, written by Dr. Sarah Edwards, Dr. Gloria Reeves, and Dr. Mutiat Onigbanjo, doctors at the University of Maryland’s Children Hospital and faculty at the University of Maryland School of Medicine**