

HB0021_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0021- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Social Media Platforms - Vloggers and Video Content Featuring Minors (Child Influencers Protection Act)

TO: Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0021, **Social Media Platforms - Vloggers and Video Content Featuring Minors (Child Influencers Protection Act)**

The rapid growth of internet videos, called vlogs requires new laws to control the phenomenon. As defined by the Oxford Dictionary a vlog is “a personal website or social media account where a person regularly posts short videos.”

In some cases, vloggers have minor children in their vlogs. This bill seeks to protect minors from being exploited because it will require a vlogger who creates video content that is posted on a social media platform and features a certain child to compensate the child under certain circumstances. It will force removal of content online that is found to contain minors by establishing requirements on social media platforms relating to deleting video content featuring minor children. It will also add the child labor laws requirements by applying certain requirements relating to the labor of minors to children compensated by vloggers.

As report by multistate.us: ¹

Key Takeaways:

- Sixteen states have introduced legislation requiring trust accounts for minor content creators' earnings, following pioneering laws in Illinois, Minnesota, and California that established protections for young influencers in the digital economy.
- State laws are modeled after California's historic Coogan Law from 1939, which protected child actors' earnings, with recent updates expanding coverage to include modern content creators and social media influencers.
- Takedown procedures vary significantly by state, with Utah placing responsibility on creators, Arkansas splitting duties between platforms and creators, and Montana focusing on platform-centric requirements for content removal.
- Legislative momentum has accelerated following high-profile cases of family vloggers exploiting children, highlighting concerns about consent, compensation, and the physical and mental well-being of minors featured in online content.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0021.

¹ <https://www.multistate.us/insider/2025/6/25/protecting-young-influencers-new-laws-protect-content-creators-that-are-minors>