



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing
“Protecting Our Children Online”
Questions for the Record
for Emma Lembke

Submitted March 1, 2023

1. Please describe your preferred legislative changes, if any, to the federal immunity granted under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. § 230).

Thank you, Senator Whitehouse, for the opportunity to provide a response to this question. As a youth advocate for safer social media and online platforms for kids, teens, and young adults, I will preface my response in the fact that the policy nuance of the debate over Section 230 reform is outside the scope of my expertise. Thus, I largely defer to my fellow witnesses to provide more substantive responses as to their precise proposed legislative changes to Section 230.

While I recognize the need to update Section 230 — a law written in 1996, before I or anyone else in my generation was born and well before today’s internet had been imagined — I believe that Section 230 reform is not the only way we can reduce the harms of social media and Big Tech platforms for kids, teens, and young adults.

It is critical that updates to Section 230 account for the continued evolution of the internet and take into account possible unintended consequences by centering the experiences of young people like myself and others who would be directly affected by Section 230 reform. Simultaneously, I support the advancement of bipartisan policies to protect kids, teens, and young adults online. I believe we must take an “all of the above” approach to rein in Big Tech’s societal harms and protect kids, teens, and young adults online.

As I said in my testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, “The mental health crisis for young people that we are witnessing will only continue to rise. So, we cannot wait

another year, we cannot wait another month, another week, or another day to begin to protect the next generation from the harms that we have witnessed and heard about today."