

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
RELATING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL'S CALL FOR WARNING LABELS ON SOCIAL
MEDIA PLATFORMS.

WHEREAS, published studies are suggesting a causal link between social media use and reduced well-being and rising mood disorders, chiefly depression, and anxiety among youth ages 10 to 25 years old; and

WHEREAS, every indicator of mental health and psychological well-being among teens and young adults has deteriorated since the introduction of smartphones and social media in 2010; and

WHEREAS, County health data confirms this alarming trend with youth ages 15 to 24 years of age having the highest burden of depression compared with all other age groups in the County; and

WHEREAS, San Diego youth ages 15 to 24 are also utilizing inpatient treatment services and visiting emergency rooms at a rate two times higher than any other age group for depression and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, social media platforms are facing hundreds of lawsuits for their failure to protect youth mental health and for their purposeful creation of an unreasonably dangerous product that incentivizes addictive behaviors among vulnerable youth; and

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General is pushing for a warning label on social media platforms advising parents that using the platforms may damage adolescents' mental health; and

WHEREAS, similar warning labels required on packages of cigarettes have had significant effects on behavior and initiated a 50-year decline in smoking; and

WHEREAS, to date, there have been few meaningful changes by the industry and no adoption of federal or state policies curbing the industry's harm to developing minds.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego adopt a resolution in support of the Surgeon General's call for warning labels on social media platforms.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Claudia G. Silva, County Counsel

BY: John P. Cooley, Chief Deputy County Counsel