

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Member Debbie Dingell**

*Markup of 9 Bills, Full Committee*

**March 5, 2026**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Privacy is a fundamental right. And when it comes to our kids, that responsibility is even greater. I am deeply disappointed that we are here again. Today we are considering a partisan package that falls short of what families across this country are demanding and what our children need.

For years, we have talked and talked and talked about protecting kids online. We have held hearings and markups, and we've introduced bills. And yet, time and time again, those efforts collapse into partisan exercises that lead nowhere. Meanwhile, our children are exposed to harmful content, their data is still harvested, and they are left without meaningful protections.

We have been trying to work on bipartisan solutions. But instead of building consensus, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle plan to jam through a package that prioritizes industry over accountability. That is not how this Committee has historically operated, and it's not how we should be operating.

I am concerned that this package includes sweeping preemption. As technology evolves and new harms emerge, we must continue to step up to protect children. We should be setting a strong federal floor.

What makes this even more frustrating is that commonsense bipartisan bills — like my No Fentanyl on Social Media Act, which directs federal agencies to examine how traffickers target minors online and develop concrete recommendations to protect kids — are being wrapped into a broader partisan package that undermines meaningful privacy protections.

This package is privacy in name only, and it fails to create real, enforceable standards that truly put children and families first.

Congress cannot continue to cede its leadership on privacy. We cannot keep passing partisan measures while the digital world grows more complex for our kids. The American people expect us to work together and get this right.

I will stand up for our families and for our young people. And Mr. Chair, I plan to vote against this package. It's time to actually deliver the strong privacy protections our children deserve. I yield back.