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## CAPITAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### *AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

1. Board Meeting Date: July 21, 2025
2. Item Title: V.A.4 Class Action Lawsuit RE: Social Media Harm to Children
3. Name of Presenter: V. Lee
4. This item is for: XX Action \_\_\_ Consent Agenda \_\_\_ Discussion \_\_\_ Report/Information
5. Proposed Motion (Action Items Only): I move that we approve the Districts participation in the Social Media Harm to Children class action lawsuit, as presented.
6. Executive Summary: Please see attached.



### Social Media Harm to Children

American children and teenagers are facing an unprecedented mental health epidemic, with top researchers and government agencies observing a dramatic increase in youth mental health crises over the course of the last decade. According to the most recent data from the CDC's bi-annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey, in 2021, 42% of high school students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, up from 28% in 2011. Academic studies have likewise shown a significant rise in depression, anxiety, loneliness, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, and suicide rates, beginning in the early 2010s.

The widespread adoption of social media has played a key role in the decline of youth mental health. For years, major social media companies responsible for popular platforms including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and Snapchat have intentionally designed and developed their products to addict children. Design features such as "like" buttons, endless scroll, and recommendation algorithms that feed users reaction-provoking content maximize the time kids spend on these platforms at the cost of actively harming their mental health.

Social media companies deliberately design platforms without age verification and default all user profiles to be public, allowing children below the legal age requirement of 13 to easily use their products and ensuring that vulnerable kids can be contacted by any other user. Now, these social media companies face numerous wrongful death and personal injury lawsuits filed on behalf of minors affected by severe mental and physical harms, including suicide and eating disorders, allegedly caused by their products. Additionally, school districts across the country have filed lawsuits against social media companies over the costs associated with supporting students' increasing needs for mental, behavioral, and emotional health resources. The lawsuits seek both monetary damages and injunctive relief, which would require social media companies to make changes to their addictive algorithms and other adjustments to the designs of their products.

This multidistrict product liability litigation is focused on the design decisions and product features of social media platforms created by these businesses, not third-party content. The litigation is centralized before Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers in the Northern District of California ([In re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation \(MDL No. 3047\)](#)). Currently there are over 1,000 school districts that have joined the litigation.

BMF represents more than 85 school districts of varying sizes and demographics in this litigation. Matt Legg of BMF is a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee. We have partnered with Stephen R. Marshall of Marshall Law PC out of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Additionally, we have partnered with Lexi Hazam of Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein who is serving as co-lead counsel in this litigation.

For further information, contact Matt Legg at 410-421-7777 or [mlegg@lawbmf.com](mailto:mlegg@lawbmf.com).