

# RESOLUTION NO.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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## RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO PRIORTIZE AND EXPEDITE THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES TO INCLUDE WARNING LABELS ON THEIR PLATFORMS

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**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, has recently called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms to address the significant mental health risks associated with their use by young people; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Murthy's recent opinion piece in The New York Times highlights that social media is a contributing factor in the mental health crisis among adolescents and that a warning label, akin to those required on cigarette packages, could increase awareness and potentially change behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, social media usage among young people is pervasive, with up to 95% of individuals aged 13 to 17 using these platforms, and over a third of them using social media “almost constantly” according to data from the Pew Research Center; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence from tobacco studies shows that warning labels can be effective in raising awareness and influencing behavior regarding health risks; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Mateo is committed to protecting the health and well-being of its residents, particularly its young people, and recognizes the need for measures to mitigate mental health risks associated with social media use;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County supports an initiative to require warning labels on social media platforms, as proposed by the U.S. Surgeon General; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County of San Mateo urges Congress to prioritize and expedite the enactment of legislation that would require such warning labels, recognizing the importance of protecting the mental health of adolescents in our communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Executive is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the members of the County's Congressional delegation and major social media companies, to express the County's position and encourage prompt action on this important issue.

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