

# Congressman Guthrie celebrates passage of KIDS Act

Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Congressman Gus Bilirakis (FL-12), and Congresswoman Kathy Castor (FL-14) issued the following statements after the House passed H.R. 7757, the Kids Internet and Dig-

ital Safety (KIDS) Act by a vote of 267 to 117. "Congress has spent years searching for how to best protect children and teens online, and today's overwhelming bipartisan vote indicates that we have found our solution. The KIDS Act creates strong protections with new rules for design features, default settings, and kids' privacy," said Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone. "We

want to thank our colleagues for their strong vote today to protect kids, empower parents, and hold internet platforms accountable." "Empowering parents to better protect their children—especially in the face of the near-constant barrage of digital threats—remains one of our most important responsibilities," said Rep. Bilirakis. "Today, we advanced that mission by moving forward this

package, including the Kids Online Safety Act, which establishes a comprehensive set of safeguards, such as addressing compulsive usage, and parental controls to protect kids. One troubling post should not turn into a constant stream of depression, suicide, or eating disorder content. I remain committed to ensuring children can safely navigate the digital world while holding tech-

nology companies accountable. Protecting our kids must always come before protecting corporate profits." "Today's adoption of the bipartisan KIDS Act is a long-overdue and meaningful step toward protecting America's children in the digital age," said Rep. Castor. "For years, parents, young people, pediatricians, psychologists, teachers and advocates have made clear that Big Tech

must act to reduce the harms experienced by too many kids online. This bill strengthens privacy protections for children and teens, bans targeted advertising to young people, gives families more control and preserves parents' ability to seek justice in court. This is an important step, but it is not the end of our work. I will continue to press to create a safer digital environment for children and teens.

# Drowning— "This happens in the blink of an eye"

From page 1A

Meanwhile, some data suggests an increase in swimming pool construction and increases in unsupervised swimming, said Tessa Clemens, the CDC Foundation's senior director for drowning prevention initiatives. Kym Roberts studies drownings in Australia — where child drownings have been either level or decreasing in recent years. She said "drowning in young children is often associated with falls into water and lapses in direct supervision." Some possible good news: Preliminary U.S. data for last year suggests child drownings declined. But it's not clear whether that's the start of a trend, and the deaths still remain higher compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, Clemens said.

**Pediatricians push for standards and regulations**  
Inventors have recognized a need for child

water safety measures, and recent years have seen the emergence of immersion alarms that sound if the wristband a child is wearing goes underwater. But manufacturers of such devices note they can serve as an extra warning system, but should not be considered a primary way to keep children safe. The federal government's top public health agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, laid off Clemens and the rest of the staff of its drowning prevention program last year. But new guidance and drowning prevention support continues to come out of other organizations, including the CDC Foundation and the American Academy of Pediatrics. A CDC Foundation program has paid for basic swimming and water safety skills training for over 35,000 students since 2024.

**A family tragedy leads to a foundation for water**

**safety**  
The Stew Leonard's grocery chain offers a Disney-like shopping experience, featuring food-promoting animatronic characters like a dancing banana, a mooing cow and singing avocados. But several of its stores also have an animatronic creature that seems out of place: a life-jacketed duck named Stewie who sings about how not to drown. The duck is named for the son of Stew Leonard, the grocery chain's chief executive. The boy was 21 months old when he drowned during a family vacation on the island of St. Martin in 1989.

More than a dozen adults and kids had gathered at a birthday party for Stewie's older sister, who was turning 3. Stew Leonard was outside hanging balloons and his wife was inside baking a cake. "I saw Stewie outside and I assumed that he (Leonard) was watching him," said his wife, Kim, noting that other relatives also were in

the area of the pool. "We never communicated with each other; 'You've got him?'" said Kim Leonard, now 65. "When everyone's watching, nobody's watching." "There were a couple of balloons floating in the water," Leonard, 71, recalled. "And you know after a few minutes, sort of everybody was like, 'Where's Stewie?'" Unfortunately I was the one who found him. He was face down in the pool." His death led the couple to start a foundation that pays for children's swimming lessons and promotes drowning prevention.

**Ways to prevent drowning**  
The AAP says research shows that policies can make a difference, including lifeguard standards, life jacket regulations and requirements that swimming pools be completely surrounded by fences with self-closing, self-latching gates. Stew Leonard emphasizes two other

approaches — swimming lessons for young kids and complete focus by caregivers when young children are around water. Also, "shut your cell-phones off when you're around the pool, watch-

ing the kids. Don't sit there reading a book. Don't sit there talking to your friends, neglecting your child that's near the water," he said.

"This happens in the blink of an eye."

## TAYLOR COUNTY TIRE



Our tire inventory is one of the largest in Central Kentucky. We probably have the tires you need. If not, we can get most major brands the next day.



**1636 New Columbia Road, Campbellsville**  
**Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
Find us on  **270-465-8176**



# Summer Special

## Green County Residents

Valid June 16 - August 6  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 PM departure

### 50% OFF TRAIN RIDES



New Haven, KY  
800-272-0152  
www.kyrail.org

Use Promo Code:  
**SUMMER26**

Valid ID required at check-in