

Josh Kaul
Wisconsin Attorney General



P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2024

AG Kaul Joins Bipartisan Coalition Seeking Court Enforcement as TikTok Fails to Preserve and Produce Evidence in Multistate Investigation

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Josh Kaul today joined a coalition of 22 attorneys general in urging a Tennessee court to enforce its orders that require TikTok to comply with an ongoing multistate consumer protection investigation and to preserve and produce relevant evidence.

“With the impact of social media on youth mental health becoming clearer, there’s no question that we must act,” said Attorney General Kaul. “Among other things, we must ensure that there’s accountability for violations of consumer protection laws that led to harms to youth mental health.”

The multistate group began an investigation into TikTok in 2022 to determine whether TikTok is violating state consumer protection laws in ways that have fueled the ongoing crisis in the mental health of children and teens. Various states have issued requests for information related to TikTok’s business practices.

Last year when TikTok failed to produce the requested information, 46 states filed an amicus brief in support of Tennessee when it sought an enforcement action in state court to compel TikTok to comply with its requests. The court has twice ordered TikTok to produce responsive documents and witnesses for deposition, but TikTok has failed to fully comply with these orders.

Today, the multistate coalition has again filed an amicus brief in support of Tennessee’s further efforts to compel TikTok’s compliance with the court’s order. The brief asserts that TikTok’s failure to preserve potentially relevant evidence and to

produce information in a reasonably useable format is impeding the multistate investigation of TikTok. The brief emphasized that a resolution from the court is critical. Without it companies will increasingly be emboldened to destroy relevant evidence which will materially hinder states' ability to protect their residents.

In parallel with the coalition's amicus filing, more than a dozen states also filed state court lawsuits against TikTok today. While these states pursue litigation, the states joining the amicus brief will continue to use their investigatory powers to understand the full scope of TikTok's conduct and potential consumer protection violations.

These actions are all part of the multistate coalition's continued coordinated efforts to hold TikTok accountable for its role in harming youth mental health.

Also joining the amicus brief are the attorneys general from Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wyoming.