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Press Statement, Center for Digital Democracy (CDD) and Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood (CCFC), 12-14-20

Today, the Federal Trade Commission [announced](#) it will use its 6(b) authority to launch a major new study into the data collection practices of nine major tech platforms and companies: ByteDance (TikTok), Amazon, Discord, Facebook, Reddit, Snap, Twitter, WhatsApp and YouTube. The Commission's study includes a section on children and teens.

In December, 2019, the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood (CCFC), Center for Digital Democracy (CDD) and their attorneys at Georgetown Law's Institute for Public Representation [urged the Commission to use its 6\(b\) authority](#) to better understand how tech companies collect and use data from children. Twenty-seven consumer and child advocacy organizations joined that request.

Below are statements from CDD and CCFC on today's announcement.

Josh Golin, Executive Director, CCFC: "We are extremely pleased that the FTC will be taking a hard look at how platforms like TikTok, Snap, and YouTube collect and use young people's data. These 6(b) studies will provide a much-needed window into the opaque data practices that have a profound impact on young people's wellbeing. This much-needed study will not only provide critical public education, but lay the groundwork for evidence-based policies that protect young people's privacy and vulnerabilities when they use online services to connect, learn, and play."

Jeff Chester, Executive Director, CDD: "The FTC is finally holding the social media and online video giants accountable, by requiring leading companies to reveal how they stealthily gather and use information that impacts our privacy and autonomy. It is especially important the commission is concerned about also protecting teens— who are the targets of a sophisticated and pervasive marketing system designed to influence their behaviors for monetization purposes."