



Social Media Laws



Introduction



- **Social media law** = deals with issues that pertain to user-generated content and the specific sites that host and spread this content, according to [Winston & Strawn LLP](#).
- In an effort to protect and improve adolescents' mental health, Utah passed a law in March called the Social Media Regulation Act.
- **Social Media Regulation Act** = Utah residents under 18 will not have access to social media unless they receive direct permission from a parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian consents to their child using social media, they will have access to everything their child does on the sites.

Coverage of Social Media Regulation Act

- [Time Magazine](#) covered the topic by using research that challenges the new law in Utah and how it's being enforced.
- [AP News](#) covered the topic by providing more quotes from Utah Governor Spencer Cox on why he decided to enact the law, and the general positive reaction that this decision received from parents.
- Both Time and AP News explained what the law is intended to do and why it has been enacted.

Most Recent Social Media Law

- Montana just became the first U.S. state to completely ban the use of TikTok inside the state, which will take effect next year on January 1.
- Montana Governor Greg Gianforte [tweeted](#) yesterday that he did this “To protect Montanans’ personal and private data from the Chinese Communist Party.”



Public's Response



- Most of Gianforte's replies were negative, and people of all ages are taking to social media to give their two cents on recent social media laws.
- Many are saying that these laws in Republican-led states like Utah and Montana are:
 - A form of censorship
 - It should be the citizens' choice on whether or not they want to use social media
 - There are bigger problems in America than things like TikTok that legislators should be worrying about

Media Literacy Concepts

- There are restrictions being placed on the ability for people to access, use, and analyze content on social media, especially young people.
- The media has influenced the democratic process as elected officials are enacting strict laws that we've never seen before.



Personal Implications

- People in power are making drastic decisions without taking every possible factor into consideration.
- Utah's Social Media Regulation Act does not consider children with abusive parents.
- Everyone has different perceptions of what age a child is and when teenagers should be allowed to make their own decisions about their social media usage.

Relevance in Five and Ten Years

- I think this topic will still be extremely relevant because we are living in the age of technology and social media advancements.
- Social media is a way that many people keep up with one another and express themselves, and I think that will always be the case.



Implications for Future Generations



- People in power want to control as much as they possibly can of what citizens do.
- By taking away social media or enacting strict laws on social media, legislators are suppressing citizens' freedom of speech and their right to decide for themselves if they want to use social media or not.
- Adolescents will be made to feel as though they aren't trustworthy since the right to privacy is being taken away from them when legislators allow their parents to surveil everything they do on social media if they're even allowed to have it in the first place.