

SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

States launch bipartisan probe into Meta's negative impacts on kids' mental health

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Social media company Meta, formerly known as Facebook, continues to face allegations that its platforms negatively impact the mental health of users. Image credit: Meta

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Media group Meta, formerly known as Facebook, is facing a joint investigation from 10 states regarding whether the group broke consumer protection laws by trying to attract kids to its platforms.

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CNBC reports that the bipartisan group includes attorneys general from California, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Tennessee and Vermont. The investigation will explore the tactics Meta used in getting children to join and engage with its platforms as well as possible harmful repercussions from said engagement.

Transcendent trouble

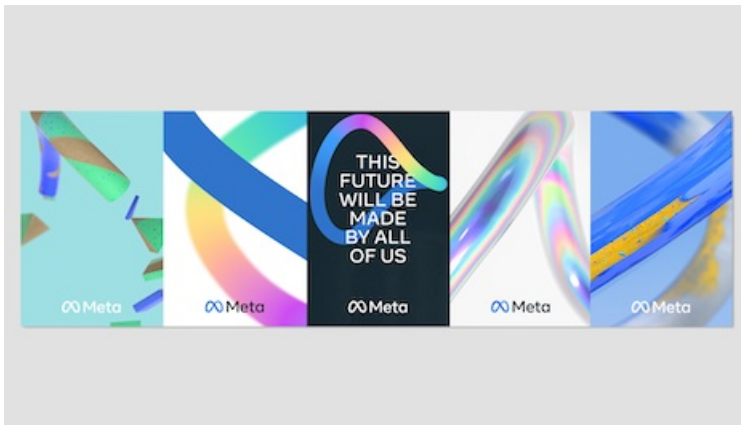
The new investigation is just one recent challenge for Meta, as the group has faced issues with whistleblowers, antitrust lawsuits and recent reports that Instagram has negatively impacted teens' mental health.

Instagram later announced that it was pausing development of a version of its app designed for children 13 years old or younger because of safety and privacy concerns.

Tech giants are experiencing somewhat of an awakening as of late, as whistleblowers, government officials, concerned parents and more are increasingly out against the ways social media can be harmful ([see story](#)).

"Doesn't make a difference if you call it Instagram, Facebook, or Meta, the fact still remains the same: These social media platforms are extremely dangerous and have been proven to cause both physical and mental harm in young people," said Letitia James, New York Attorney General, in a statement related to the investigation.

Meta claims that the investigation stems from a "deep misunderstanding of the facts," and that the organization has led the industry in combating bullying and supporting people struggling with mental health issues.



Facebook began developing a new company brand in 2019. Image credit: Meta

"We continue to build new features to help people who might be dealing with negative social comparisons or body image issues," said Andy Stone, spokesperson for Meta, in a statement.

"We continue to develop parental supervision controls and are exploring ways to provide even more age-appropriate experiences for teens."

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