To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a program on children and the media within the National Institute of Health to study the health and developmental effects of technology on infants, children, and adolescents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Markey (for himself, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Collins, and Mr. Bennet) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a program on children and the media within the National Institute of Health to study the health and developmental effects of technology on infants, children, and adolescents.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the “Children and Media Research Advancement Act” or the “CAMRA Act”.

5
SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFECTS OF MEDIA ON INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS.

Subpart 7 of part C of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 452H. RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFECTS OF MEDIA ON INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institutes of Health, in coordination with or acting through the Director of the Institute, shall conduct and support research and related activities concerning the health and developmental effects of media on infants, children, and adolescents, which may include the positive and negative effects of exposure to and use of media, such as social media, applications, websites, television, motion pictures, artificial intelligence, mobile devices, computers, video games, virtual and augmented reality, and other media formats as they become available. Such research shall attempt to better understand the relationships between media and technology use and individual differences and characteristics of children and shall include longitudinally designed studies to assess the impact of media on youth over time. Such research shall include consideration of..."
core areas of child and adolescent health and development
including the following:

“(1) COGNITIVE.—The role and impact of
media use and exposure in the development of chil-
dren and adolescents within such cognitive areas as
language development, executive functioning, atten-
tion, creative problem solving skills, visual and spa-
tial skills, literacy, critical thinking, and other learn-
ing abilities, and the impact of early technology use
on developmental trajectories.

“(2) PHYSICAL.—The role and impact of media
use and exposure on children’s and adolescent’s
physical development and health behaviors, including
diet, exercise, sleeping and eating routines, and
other areas of physical development.

“(3) SOCIO-EMOTIONAL.—The role and impact
of media use and exposure on children’s and adoles-
cents’ social-emotional competencies, including self-
awareness, self-regulation, social awareness, relation-
ship skills, empathy, distress tolerance, perception of
social cues, awareness of one’s relationship with the
media, and decision-making, as well as outcomes
such as privacy, violence, bullying, depression, anx-
iety, addiction, obsessive behavior, and suicidal idea-
tion.
“(b) Developing Research Agenda.—The Director of the National Institutes of Health, in coordination with the Director of the Institute, other appropriate national research institutes, academies, and centers, the Trans-NIH Pediatric Research Consortium, and non-Federal experts as needed, shall develop a research agenda on the health and developmental effects of media on infants, children, and adolescents to inform research activities under subsection (a). In developing such research agenda, the Director may use whatever means necessary (such as scientific workshops and literature reviews) to assess current knowledge and research gaps in this area.

“(c) Research Program.—In coordination with the Institute and other national research institutes and centers, and utilizing the National Institutes of Health’s process of scientific peer review, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall fund an expanded research program on the health and developmental effects of media on infants, children, and adolescents.

“(d) Report to Congress.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall submit a report to Congress on the progress made in gathering data and expanding research on the health and developmental effects of media on infants, children, and adolescents in accord-
ance with this section. Such report shall summarize the grants and research funded, by year, under this section.

“(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021; and

“(2) $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023.”.