

**Testimony of Commissioner Samuel A.A. Levine
New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection**

**Before Joint Committees on Children and Youth, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and
Oversight & Investigations
Hearing on Introduction 450**

April 21, 2026

Introduction

Good afternoon, Chairs Williams, Caban, Krishnan and members of the Committees. My name is Samuel Levine, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Introduction 450.

Protecting New York's Workers

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) is the nation's leading municipal enforcement agency charged with delivering economic justice. DCWP leverages its authority to bring New Yorkers real economic relief and protect them from predatory, deceptive, and unfair practices that violate their rights as consumers and workers. This includes pioneering cutting-edge protections, such as the City's Consumer Protection Law, Protected Time Off Law, Fair Workweek Law, and Delivery Worker Laws, including the Minimum Pay Rate for delivery workers. Through licensing more than 45,000 businesses in over 45 industries, DCWP ensures fair competition and a level playing field for responsible small businesses that are integral to New York City's vibrant communities. DCWP also provides essential services such as free tax preparation and financial counseling to ensure New Yorkers keep more of what they earn and can plan for their futures. DCWP is committed to making sure New York City is a fairer, more affordable place to live.

Introduction 450

Turning to today's legislation, Introduction 450 would prohibit social media companies from allowing youth to use social media for more than one hour per day, unless waived by a parent or guardian. Additionally, social media companies would be prohibited from promoting targeted advertisements or content to youth.

This legislation would address an urgent mental health crisis among young people – one fueled by tech giants raking in billions of dollars while showing little interest in protecting their users. Given DCWP's lack of expertise with adolescent mental health, and affordability-focused mission, we are not taking a position on this legislation. However, we commend the Council for its attention to this important issue.¹

I would note that Law Department is also currently reviewing this legislation.

Conclusion

¹ Note that the Law Department is also reviewing this legislation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before the committee on today's bill. DCWP welcomes continued collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders and the Council.