



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 31, 2025

Superintendent Ellen Weaver
South Carolina Department of Education
849 Learning Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172

Dear Superintendent Weaver,

I am writing to bring to your attention an urgent matter critical to the safety and well-being of South Carolina's children. The FBI has briefed our office regarding the growing danger posed by online groups like the "764 movement" and others like it, which target vulnerable teens and pre-teens, coercing them into creating violent and graphic content. In collaboration with our law enforcement partners, my office recently issued a public warning about this movement, which has grown and has now reached South Carolina. This is a serious concern, and we are actively working with federal and local authorities to address the risks it poses to our children.

These groups often prey on young people experiencing mental health challenges, using manipulation and threats to exploit children and teens. Victims are coerced into self-harm, creating harmful content, and, in extreme cases, even suicide. The attached press release outlines the warning signs that parents, teachers, and school staff should be aware of, as well as steps they can take to protect vulnerable children from these dangerous trends.

Because schools play a pivotal role in safeguarding our children, I respectfully request that this information be promptly distributed to all school districts across the state. Teachers, counselors, and school resource officers are often the first line of defense in identifying these warning signs and intervening when students are at risk. By equipping them with knowledge of these dangers, we can better protect our students and potentially save lives.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in ensuring this information reaches school districts and parents as soon as possible. My office is prepared to coordinate with your team on any follow-up training or resources that may be needed to better equip educators to recognize and respond to these threats.

It is no exaggeration to say our children are under attack. I look forward to working together to provide parents and guardians with another tool in the fight to keep our kids safe.

Sincerely,



Alan Wilson

Cc:

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of Attorney General Alan Wilson
State of South Carolina

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2025

Attorney General Alan Wilson partners with Superintendent Ellen Weaver to warn schools about online exploitation threats

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) — South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson is partnering with State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver to alert schools across the state to a growing online threat targeting children and teens. In a letter to Superintendent Weaver's office this week, Attorney General Wilson requested that critical safety information be shared with all South Carolina school districts to help protect students from the harmful influence of online movements like the "764 movement."

The FBI has briefed the Attorney General's Office on the disturbing rise of online groups that prey on vulnerable youth, particularly those struggling with mental health, coercing them into creating violent or graphic content and, in extreme cases, encouraging self-harm or suicide. These groups are increasingly targeting children in South Carolina.

"Protecting our children must always come first," said Attorney General Wilson. "By working hand-in-hand with our educators, we can confront these threats head-on and keep our students safe. We're thankful to have a strong partner in Superintendent Weaver and the Department of Education. Together, we're taking proactive steps to ensure our teachers, counselors, and school resource officers are prepared to recognize these threats and intervene when necessary."

Attorney General Wilson's office has issued a public safety alert detailing red flags and action steps for educators and parents. The letter to Superintendent Weaver's office emphasizes the essential role schools play in identifying early warning signs and protecting students.

"Superintendent Weaver has always been an advocate for the well-being of South Carolina students, and we're grateful for her continued leadership," Wilson added. "This partnership is about empowering schools and families with the knowledge and tools they need to fight back against this disturbing trend."

The Attorney General's Office stands ready to provide follow-up resources, training, and support to any school district that needs it.