

NBC's *Today*

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1 minute and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: TikTok CEO Grilled by Lawmakers]

SAVANNAH SELLERS: The CEO also promising to focus on safety for teenagers with TikTok implementing age-based restrictions and time limits for its youngest viewers.

CONGRESSMAN FRANK PALLONE (D-NJ): Research has found that TikTok's addictive algorithms recommend videos to teens that create and exacerbate feelings of emotional distress, including videos promoting suicide, self-harm, and eating disorders.

SELLERS: TikTok creators in the room to see the hearing firsthand. [TO JOSEPH] Do you think that the lawmakers who are asking the questions today understand TikTok?

DUNCAN JOSEPH: I think there are some people that definitely have never used the app, haven't even seen it working and you can tell because one even — one lawmaker even called it tic tac.

CONGRESSMAN NEAL DUNN (R-FL): Tic tac.

CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE DINGELL (D-MI): Tic tac.

SELLERS: House Speaker Kevin McCarthy says he would support a ban.

HOUSE SPEAKER KEVIN MCCARTHY (R-CA): I think we see a bipartisan concern here with what's happening on TikTok, especially what's happening to the data for Americans.

SELLERS: All of it as some supporters say TikTok is being singled out despite broader issues across all social media platforms.

CONGRESSMAN JAAMAL BOWMAN (D-NY): You are jumping off a cliff to ban TikTok and we haven't even had a larger conversation around the understanding of how all this works.

SELLERS: Now, following the hearing, a TikTok spokesperson told NBC News the company's CEO came to answer questions, but they say the day was dominated by political grand standing. They also noted that some five million businesses use TikTok to reach customers.

CRAIG MELVIN: Yeah.

SELLERS: That was one of the points that many of those creators on the Hill were actually making in the lead-up to this also.