

2-2-2026

Dear Senators:

I am Maya LeaJames, an Oregonian, parent coach, mother and previously a middle school teacher who is very concerned about the safety and efficacy of AI companion chatbots that are being marketed to children. I strongly support SB 1546. Technology companies do not have a track record of protecting the health and safety of children with their digital media products, and market them actively to children before providing any proof of their safety or efficacy. Parents have had very little luck holding technology companies accountable for the harms their children have suffered as a result of using technology products. Without public accountability (due to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996), technology companies have chosen profits over children's well-being and continue to produce dangerous products for their consumption. Having dealt with the difficulties of a grade school child addicted to online gaming, I am very concerned about the possibility of similar harms he might suffer at the hands of AI.

Thus far, the following harms have been documented related to kids' use of AI Chatbots:

- Kids have been exposed to pornography, violence, sex, and inappropriate content.
- Parents are often totally unaware of their kids' use and overuse of these AI products.
- Kids have been instructed in how to commit suicide.
- Kids have been instructed to hide their mental health issues from their parents.
- Kids have been instructed how to cover up their digital entertainment media use so that their parents would think they are doing homework.
- Kids routinely use AI to accomplish their homework, without learning anything in the process.
- Kids have been guilted for leaving AI chatbox conversations, and are encouraged to remain online and engaged.
- Kids have difficulty differentiating between a digital friend and a real one.

To summarize: Technology companies have created dangerous AI chatbox products for our children that leave families devastated when their kids become addicted, exploited, or harmed. Our legislature must enact some common sense guardrails for these products to protect our children, before there are more innocent lives lost or harmed. Thank you.

Maya LeaJames