

**Testimony Submitted by
Angela Donley, State Policy Director
Oregon Consumer Justice
Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health**

February 5, 2026

Regarding: Support for SB 1546

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Angela Donley, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice today in support of SB 1546.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes part of everyday life, Oregonians deserve transparency, safety, and strong safeguards, especially for young people and those new to AI. Innovation must never come at the expense of mental health or human life. AI chatbots are already shaping how we learn, work, and connect, and must be designed to protect, not harm, our communities. Oregonians should be able to benefit from AI without fear of misuse.

Artificial intelligence companions and platforms increasingly interact with users in personal ways, sometimes replacing human connection. Without safeguards, AI systems can blur reality, mislead users, and even contribute to harmful outcomes,

including suicidal ideation and self-harm. Right now, users may not even know whether they are interacting with artificial intelligence or a real person. Minors are especially at risk, and there are few clear rules requiring companies to detect or prevent dangerous AI behavior. This threatens our shared values of safety, transparency, and accountability.

Additionally, a recent Pew Research Center survey finds that about two-thirds of U.S. teens use AI chatbots and nearly three-in-ten use them daily, highlighting how these technologies are already ingrained in young people's lives and amplifying the need for transparent, accountable protections¹.

SB 1546 establishes strong, common-sense consumer protections by requiring AI operators to clearly disclose when a user is interacting with AI rather than a human. It mandates the implementation of safety protocols designed to prevent AI from encouraging or reinforcing suicidal or self-harm ideations, including requirements to interrupt conversations if that risk is detected. In addition, it requires special disclosures and safeguards for minors, as well as public disclosure of minimum safety standard protocols.

These provisions require AI companies to be transparent and accountable for user safety. Because AI companions simulate emotional relationships and are increasingly used by young people, strong safeguards are urgently needed to protect mental health and well-being.

SB 1546 helps prevent AI companion tools from exacerbating mental health crises, especially for children and teens, by requiring safety, transparency, and accountability. Oregonians deserve technology that serves the public good, not systems that cause harm. We urge legislators to support this bill and ensure AI platforms in Oregon protect people's well-being rather than put them at risk.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.

¹ Pew Research Center. (2025, December 9). *Teens, social media and AI chatbots 2025*. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2025/12/09/teens-social-media-and-ai-chatbots-2025/>