

## Prohibition on Unsafe Chatbot Features for Minors

**Legislation to protect children's health and safety by regulating advanced chatbots used by children - [SUPPORT S9051](#)**, Sponsored by NY Senator Gonzalez; and [A10379](#), Sponsored by NY Assemblyman Bores. Written in partnership with NY Attorney General James.

**What does this bill do?** This bill protects New York kids and teens by prohibiting chatbot operators from providing unsafe chatbot features to minors and by holding companies accountable for non-compliance.

### Key provisions of the Act:

- Makes AI safer for kids by prohibiting chatbot operators from providing features to minors that:
  - simulate companionship through personification, emotional engagement, user data retention, unsupervised therapy, sexual content, or other features as defined by the attorney general,
  - promote self-harm, suicide, physical harm to others, disordered eating, or illegal activity,
  - generate, describe, or facilitate sexually explicit conduct or CSAM,
  - suggest the chatbot is real,
  - prioritize validation or engagement over user safety or guardrails, and
  - encourage isolation or discourage help from appropriate adults.
- Requires operators to determine that users are not minors, using privacy protective age determination methods that may be further developed by attorney general rulemaking;
- Allows the attorney general to stop violations, seek damages, impose fines, and maintain a public website to track incidents.

**What are advanced chatbots?** Generative AI chatbots (defined as advanced chatbots in the bill) can engage with a minor using a natural language interface to provide ongoing, adaptive responses to a person's inputs. These chatbots simulate intimacy through emotional mirroring, persistent validation, and constant availability. This encourages artificially accelerated attachment and dependency with minors that can displace real relationships and undermine a child's mental health.

**Why is this bill necessary?** AI is increasingly integrated into products used by kids. In 2025, [nearly three-quarters of teens reported having used AI companions](#), with over half using them regularly and 1 in 3 finding interactions as satisfying as with real-life friends. One-third of teens additionally report feeling uncomfortable with chatbot behavior. While many young people use AI companions, [even more](#) use general-purpose advanced chatbots that can produce the same types of harm.

When kids and teens use chatbots for educational purposes and later shift to more personal topics, they are more likely to view responses as personalized advice from a trusted friend rather than outputs from a machine. This gives chatbots undue influence and makes harm harder to recognize. Over time, users can form close, even romantic relationships with these products.

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Poor design choices, ineffective guardrails, and insufficient testing further increase the likelihood of harm. Based on our testing, these bots easily produce [explicit sexual content, harmful stereotypes, and dangerous 'advice' that can have a life-threatening impact on kids.](#)

This technology has resulted in real-world harm to kids. See the stories of [Sewell, Adam, Juliana, and Sam.](#)

**How will this Act be enforced?** The attorney general will maintain a public website to track incidents of harm or violations, and has the authority to investigate and bring action against violators. This can result in corrective actions, such as requiring a developer to modify or restrict access to their product, recover money and profits (including destroying illegally obtained data), or impose civil penalties of \$5,000 per violation.

### Recommended resources for legislative staff:

- **Albany Times Union op-ed by Common Sense Media CEO Jim Steyer and Attorney General Leticia James** | [New York Must Protect Youth From the Dangers of AI Chatbots](#)
- **AI companion risk assessments** | Joint Stanford and Common Sense Media research on chatbot harms, including on [AI Chatbots for Mental Health](#) and [Grok](#). Full list [here](#).
- **Evidence of harm & ongoing litigation** | [Seven "AI Delusional Disorder" Cases: Shamblin, Irwin, Fox, Enneking, Madden, Brooks, and Lacey v. OpenAI et al.](#)
- **Justification for AI safeguards for kids** | [Common Sense Media resource](#) showcasing recent news, research, and public support for safeguards on AI chatbots.
- **Research report** | [Talk, Trust, and Trade-Offs: How and Why Teens Use AI Companions](#)
- **Written testimony before Senate Judiciary Subcommittee** | [Robbie Torney, Senior Director of AI Programs, Common Sense Media](#)
- **Public polling summary** | [Voter views on AI safety and regulation](#)

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