



February 16, 2026

The Honorable Donna Bailey
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Room 220, Burton M. Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Chair Bailey,

We are writing today in support of L.D. 2162 (H.P. 1451), which restricts children’s access to artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots with human-like features and social AI companions. The bill prevents individuals under the age of 18 from engaging with AI systems that have been shown to communicate sexual roleplay and violent behaviors to children and teenagers, even after users state that they are underage¹. We ask for your support in favor of this legislation to protect all children in the state of Maine.

As you may be aware, RAINN is the nation’s largest anti-sexual assault organization. Founded in 1994, RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE and rainn.org) and carries out programs to support victims, educate the public, improve public policy, and help companies and organizations improve the way they prevent and respond to sexual violence.

The negative impacts of AI chatbots to children’s safety are clear. Grooming exchanges with chatbots can leave children more vulnerable to exploitation in real life. Studies on online grooming show that these interactions – whether with AI or humans – can erode a child’s sense of boundaries and trust, creating a pathway toward coerced sexual activity, sharing of explicit content, or physical abuse.

That is why we were pleased to see L.D. 2162 (H.P. 1451) address the platforms that enable this abuse to occur. This bill will protect children from the harm of AI chatbots and social companions by requiring them to incorporate age verification systems,

¹Why AI companions and young people can make for a dangerous mix. (2025, December 10). *Stanford Medicine News Center*. <https://med.stanford.edu/news/insights/2025/08/ai-chatbots-kids-teens-artificial-intelligence.html>

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limit the storage of private data, and establish emergency response systems intended to prevent users from harming themselves or others.

Children and teenagers must be protected from the dangers of AI chatbots and social companions. We urge you to support L.D. 2162 (H.P. 1451) in your committee. Thank you for your continued leadership and for supporting victims of sexual violence in Maine.

Sincerely,
Zoey Scheinblum-Brewer
Policy and Grassroots Coordinator