



From the Offices of Representatives Pham, Dobson, Nosse, Javadi

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Legislature Acts on Mounting Concerns Over AI and Youth Mental Health

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon House approved [SB 1546](#) to establish new consumer protections for users of artificial intelligence chatbot platforms. The bill requires AI chatbot platforms to implement safety protocols when users express thoughts of suicide or self-harm after [growing concerns](#).

“AI companions should never replace real care,” said **Rep. Hai Pham** (D-South Hillsboro & West Beaverton) and chair of the House Behavioral Health committee. “SB 1546 ensures transparency and directs youth in crisis towards trusted mental health support when they need it the most. This bill will save lives.”

Under the legislation, platforms must provide appropriate safe responses, including referrals to crisis resources such as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The bill also requires companies to clearly disclose to users when content is artificially generated, ensuring transparency in interactions that may feel personal or human.

“We can’t make the same mistakes with AI that we made with social media and leave our kids vulnerable and without meaningful safeguards. This bill would put Oregon in the leading edge of meeting the risks posed by AI chatbots,” said **Rep. April Dobson** (D – Happy Valley & N Clackamas County).

The legislation includes additional safeguards for minors, recognizing that young people are frequent users of emerging technologies. Chatbot platforms will be prohibited from generating age-inappropriate content for minors and must provide periodic reminders encouraging users to take breaks from extended interactions.

The bill also bars chatbot systems from using rewards, affirmations, or engagement tactics designed to maximize the amount of time young users spend on the platform.

“At a time when access to youth mental health services is at an all time low in Oregon and AI chatbots are contributing to teen depression and suicide, this bill steps in to proactively protect teens from the worst effects of a growing reliance on AI,” said **Rep. Rob Nosse** (D - Inner SE & Inner NE Portland).

“Artificial intelligence can answer questions, but it shouldn’t pretend to be a real person, or a real friend, or a real romantic partner,” said **Rep. Cyrus Javadi** (D - Tillamook). “This bill simply says that if companies want to build AI companions, they need to be transparent about what a user is interacting with, and responsible when someone is in a crisis situation.”

With bipartisan support in both chambers, Senate Bill 1546 now moves to the Governor for signature.

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