



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2032		DATE: 3/23/2026
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: GARRETT WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS; MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC.		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1219		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: webb@coestrategies.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 7:34 PM
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The Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Missouri Psychological Association strongly support efforts to improve safeguards to online content and the delivery of information to minors.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NETWORK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 124 E HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: matt@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 7:26 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-480-2704	
REPRESENTING: ISSACHAR LLC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 292 FAITH BLVD.			
CITY: GRAVOIS MILLS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65037
EMAIL: timothy@issachar.llc	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 11:14 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 11:07 PM	

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I am Opposed to this Bill. Children are going to find ways and methods around getting onto Internet Sites.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RILEY MCEVOY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 1:51 AM	
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Hello I am opposed to imposing age verification on these platforms, specifically for two reasons. The first is that age verification programs introduce a greater risk of sensitive data being used or even compromised, even through you might have a platform follow safety guidelines. Also it I am unsure if a company can be held liable for choosing a bad service, such that they could have a lawsuit against them for choosing a partner service that collects data from the people it verifies. Secondly is the fact that if certain content on these platforms concerns you, why are the only people being protected children. I am sure addictive algorithms and minors in sexual content can be problems for adults as well, so why are children being targeted. It seems to be an allowance for these platforms to have this content on them, just that children can't see them, if they don't fool the verification systems.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2026 1:13 PM	

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HB 2032 is a sweeping and poorly constructed attempt to regulate artificial intelligence through mandates that are technologically unrealistic, constitutionally questionable, and deeply invasive to user privacy.

First, the bill requires government-grade age verification for access to AI chatbots, which effectively forces Missourians to provide identification or biometric verification to use speech-based technology. That requirement is not a minor administrative step — it is a compelled identity checkpoint for access to digital speech, raising serious First Amendment and privacy concerns.

Second, the bill attempts to impose liability on developers for how a generative AI system might respond in open conversation. These systems produce probabilistic outputs, not prewritten scripts. Imposing \$100,000 penalties per violation based on subjective interpretations of conversational outputs will create massive legal uncertainty and will discourage responsible companies from operating in Missouri at all.

Third, this bill presumes that the State of Missouri can regulate globally distributed AI platforms through state statute. In reality, companies will simply geofence or withdraw services rather than build costly compliance systems for one state. The likely result is that Missouri residents lose access to emerging technology while the rest of the country moves forward.

Finally, HB 2032 attempts to solve legitimate concerns about minors and harmful content through a blunt regulatory instrument that sacrifices privacy, innovation, and free expression. Protecting children is important, but legislation that requires identity verification to access speech technology and imposes massive liability for open-ended dialogue systems is not a responsible solution.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to reject HB 2032.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN BERNSKOETTER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-6040	
REPRESENTING: ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 E. HIGH			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE SHEKHOVTSOVA		PHONE NUMBER: 202-986-0916	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: REASON FOUNDATION		TITLE: POLICY ANALYST	
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CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20009
EMAIL: steven.gassenberger@reason.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2026 9:31 AM	
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Chair Christ and members of the House Committee on Emerging Issues:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our recommendations on House Bill 2032 (HB 2032). My name is Nicole Shekhovtsova, and I serve as a policy analyst with the Technology Policy Project at Reason Foundation. We provide pro bono consulting to public officials and stakeholders to help them design and implement technology policy reforms around the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI), digital free speech, data security and privacy, child online safety, and tech industry competition policy.

We share the sponsor's goal of protecting minors from harmful interactions with AI chatbots. However, HB 2032's approach risks burdening lawful adult speech, creating new privacy risks, and overriding parental authority without meaningfully improving child safety. Several states have already enacted targeted, proportionate measures addressing each of these concerns.

HB 2032 requires every user to submit ID-based age verification to use the platform, and mandates that operators freeze all unverified accounts. This conditions access to lawful speech on government-approved identity checks. It forces adults to give up anonymity just to use a general-purpose technology tool, where sensitive conversations can be had.

The more common approach among states considering AI chatbot safety laws, and the one consistent with federal frameworks like the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA"), is to trigger minor-specific protections only when an operator knows a user is a minor and to rely on parental involvement or age self-declaration rather than government ID verification. Missouri should follow this approach rather than impose universal identity checks on all users.

Government IDs are high-value targets for breaches and cybercrime. By requiring ID-based verification for all users, HB 2032 forces companies to create large repositories of sensitive public data. While third-party verification vendors are permitted, these services are sometimes the cause of data breaches, some of which have exposed over a billion pieces of identifying information. No state has yet taken the straightforward step of prohibiting operators from collecting, verifying, or inferring a user's age or identity beyond voluntarily provided information. This would be an improvement over existing approaches, and we urge the committee to consider it.

HB 2032 prohibits all minors from accessing AI companion chatbots, regardless of safety features or a parent's informed judgment. This removes a parent's ability to make decisions about their child's

technology use and ignores that many of these tools offer legitimate educational and developmental value when used with appropriate safeguards.

Rather than an outright ban, we suggest that Missouri adopt an approach similar to Arizona's House Bill 2311, which establishes safety protocols for minors without entirely blocking minors from the technology. These protocols include requiring operators to disclose to minors that they are interacting with AI, prohibiting sexually explicit content and simulated emotional dependence, banning engagement-boosting reward systems, and mandating crisis intervention protocols.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony, and we welcome the opportunity to advise the legislature on this subject in the future.

Respectfully,
Nicole Shekhovtsova
nicole.shekhovtsova@reason.org