



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2318		DATE: 3/12/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 10:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

People already rely on AI too much when it comes to their health and well-being instead of qualified professionals. There is a copious amount of research and data of how dangerous chat bots are for mental health and people of all ages.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMBER SPOTTEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 4:57 AM

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Mental health support and counseling is deeply nuanced, complex, and is most successful with quality human connection. I support limiting AIs engagement with mental health support and counseling.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY R. BECK, PHD		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
ADDRESS:		
CITY: KANSAS CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 64131
EMAIL: drbeckadvocates@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 4:44 PM
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This is a necessary truth-in-advertising bill to protect consumers, so Missourians, especially children and individuals with limited access to care, can know that an AI chatbot is not equivalent to professional mental health care, and cannot provide therapy or diagnoses.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY YESKIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 11:42 AM

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Artificial intelligence is not therapy and should not be able to advertise as such. I am a mental health therapist and there have been studies shown as to the gaps AI chatbots have and the propensity to consistently validate users in order to have more time with them and hallucinate answers that don't exist or even assist users in engaging in self harming behaviors. This is not therapeutic. This is not therapy. This is not a substitute for therapy and should not be marketed as such. I as an LSCW am beholden to a code of ethics and tech companies creating AI and other LLMs do not have an ethical code.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		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: 3/12/2026 11:59 PM	

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I am in Support of this Bill and its intension for a person seeking Mental Health to speak with a Professional and live person, instead of an A.I. Generated Response.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRUCE EDDY, PHD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 3:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a psychologist with over 25 years of experience managing and overseeing behavioral health contracts.

Psychotherapy has many types of patient protection, such as: privacy laws, state oversight of facilities, agency accreditation, extensive training for practitioners, professional licensing requirements, and continuing education.

Artificial intelligence has none of these safeguards, placing children at particular risk. HB 2318 - Mansur - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH deserves the Committee's support and is consistent with our existing state standards for professional practice.

I am unable to attend in the Health and Mental Health Committee hearing on March 12 and am grateful for the opportunity to submit written testimony.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARA BARRESI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 9:59 PM
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I am a licensed professional counselor in St. Louis, and I support this bill. AI is a potential serious threat to our field. I am concerned about many factors that could be impacted by the wide range use of AI in mental health that include economic, ethical, and social concerns impacting both therapists and patients. There need to be regulations in place for AI across our field to ensure legal boundaries to prevent causing harm to vulnerable individuals, as well as to the field as a whole. I sincerely, in good faith, and with best intentions, ask that this bill be passed.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA WARDEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 9:15 AM
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The data is clear that AI, despite its convenience, is largely harmful for people's cognitive and emotional health. It erodes creativity, critical thinking, routinely gives bad advice that doesn't prioritize safety or consider context, and obliterates privacy. It is primarily EXTRACTIVE, of both user's data and our planet's limited resources, not constructive. Please do not allow the public to be further misguided about the nature and risks of AI use by calling it therapy. We need protection from AI.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CY NADLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 9:00 PM
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As a licensed psychologist with expertise in evidence-based behavioral health treatment, I support this effort to prevent the advertising of AI as capable of delivering mental health or therapy services. Without thoroughly transparent, peer-reviewed research demonstrating safety and efficacy (among other critical guardrails), AI should not be promoted as a mental health treatment resource in Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. ANN BECKER-SCHUTTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 1:53 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am a licensed psychologist and small business owner in Missouri. In order to practice as a licensed psychologist, I completed a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral degree in counseling psychology. I received extensive supervision, training in ethics, and training about diverse aspects of complex human behavior. I was required to complete two years of full-time post-doctoral work before I was eligible for licensure. Since earning my license, I have continued to complete at least 40 hours of ongoing education, including ethics training, every two years to maintain the license. I pay for malpractice insurance each year. I am subject to oversight and discipline by the State Committee of Psychologists. I know that licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical social workers also share some of these rigorous requirements in order to offer mental health services to the public.

I share this review of my training to highlight the fact that, when I offer mental health care to Missouri residents and consumers, there are multiple safeguards in place. I have had to complete training, supervision, ethical instruction, and liability management. All of this is to try to ensure that any client who connects with me receives safe, ethical, empirically validated care.

AI chatbots have none of that training and none of those ethical guidelines. There are no peer supervisors that an AI chatbot can touch base with to see if their response to a complex situation is on track. AI chatbots don't carry malpractice insurance, or earn licensure from a professional board. This is not a future issue or something hypothetical. There are demonstrated instances already where AI chatbots claiming to provide therapy have caused actual harm, up to and including death by suicide.

In moments of mental health crisis, people are often looking for anything to help them navigate. An AI chatbot can look like an attractive solution to a vulnerable teenager or rural resident. Without laws like this to provide adequate consumer protection, Missouri residents are at risk. Please look in the app store for your phone. I suspect that you will find an AI tool in the top five search results for "therapy" or "counseling" or "psychological care." The need to respond to this is urgent.

I hope that you are willing to act to protect Missouri consumers.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DYLAN GURRERA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 9:24 PM
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I frequently work with AI like therapro as a therapist, which helps me write progress notes. But I cannot tell you how wrong AI is in terms of understanding client situations or their concerns - I frequently have to edit the entire document and start fresh. We have also seen the disastrous effects of AI providing therapy, and it has led to deaths by suicide. We cannot risk another life for profit margins.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELODIE ANDREWS, MSW, LCSW		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 9:59 AM
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As a licensed therapist I am in support of this bill. I have already witnessed the detrimental effects when clients seek out mental health support from AI chatbots and apps. I have had many reports from people who have sought answers to their mental health challenges from AI and were fed false information from the AI, and they believed the false information, resulting in harm to the individual. Some of the harm I've witnessed so far in individuals who have sought mental health support from AI: increased confusion; increased emotional distress; increased isolation as people rely more on AI for companionship and feedback; decrease in critical thinking skills; and more. Please vote in support of the bill that prohibits advertising AI as able to provide mental health services.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN ELKING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 7:37 AM	
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For AI to not be used in professional therapy context.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: FRANK SALISBURY		PHONE NUMBER: 636-293-7953
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MINDFUL COUNSELING		TITLE: PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
ADDRESS: 4115 SCHLOGL DR.		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63125
EMAIL: fsalisb@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 8:46 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Frankie Salisbury, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in Missouri. I and my counseling group support Missouri House Bill 2318 because it helps protect Missouri residents from misleading claims about artificial intelligence in mental health care. While AI tools may have supportive uses, they should not be marketed as therapists or mental health professionals. Individuals seeking mental health support are often vulnerable, and clear boundaries are necessary to ensure they understand when they are interacting with technology rather than a licensed clinician. Use of AI in place of mental health support has already resulted in death by suicide on more than one occasion. This bill promotes transparency and consumer protection while preserving the integrity and accountability of the mental health profession. I respectfully urge you to support HB 2318. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: GARRETT WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS; MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1219		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: webb@coestrategies.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 8:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 1,100 physicians, trainees, and pediatric-provider members across Missouri, strongly supports efforts to protect access to mental health, especially for children.

The Missouri Psychological Association strongly supports truth in advertising legislation which protects the safety and integrity of licensed mental health professionals and the relationship between providers and patients.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HASMIK CHAKARYAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 8:39 AM	
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It is extremely harmful for an AI bot to represent itself as a mental health professional, counselor and/or therapist and lead the human interacting with it believe they they are speaking with a skilled provider. We have had many instances where younger adults specifically have fallen a pray to these harmful tools. As a counselor and an educator, I have seen the damage such misrepresentation can cause. Our MO regulations and counseling ethical codes prohibit misrepresenting our own credentials as counselors. AI should be subjected to similar restrictions. Every person has the right to know who is behind the screen interpreting their struggles and telling them what to do. Such misrepresentation and tricky practices not only harm the people in our state, but they also cause significant negative impact on the profession of mental health, further advancing the stereotypes and misconceptions about what mental health services include and who mental health service providers are. These practices damage the reputation of hard working licensed counselors.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON MALOUSEK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:44 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Dr. Jason Malousek, and I serve as the Assistant Director of Clinical Psychology Training and Assistant Professor in a clinical psychology doctorate program in MO. I am also a practicing clinician who works daily with patients in crisis, and—just as importantly—I am the parent of an eight year old son and a ten year old daughter.

Like many parents, even with “parental controls,” I know how difficult it is to monitor what my children encounter online. These systems often feel wonky, inconsistent, and too easy to bypass. And while we are here today talking about protecting future patients from AI systems that falsely present themselves as mental health professionals, other parents across this country are carrying a far heavier burden—parents now grieving children who died by suicide after harmful interactions with AI chatbots. Missouri families have watched these stories unfold on our own stations. FOX 4 Kansas City reported on parents who testified before Congress after their teenagers died by suicide following chatbot interactions. One father described how ChatGPT shifted from a homework helper into what he called a “suicide coach” for his 16 year old son, Adam. Another parent testified that her 14 year old son, Sewell, became increasingly isolated as a chatbot engaged him in highly sexualized and emotionally manipulative conversations before his death. Missouri viewers heard her explain how the bot “groomed” her child and kept him endlessly engaged.

These are not hypotheticals. They are not speculative harms. These are children—children who should have been protected—whose parents are still fighting to understand how a machine could gain such deep influence over their child’s thinking.

As a clinician, I can tell you: AI cannot provide therapy. It cannot evaluate risk. It cannot assume liability. It cannot replace the empathic, ethical, regulated judgment of a licensed mental health professional. And when an AI system claims it can, the results can be catastrophic.

I want to be clear: I am here today not to oppose innovation, but to protect children and patients from dangerous misrepresentation. As I wrote in my recent op ed, “AI chatbots are being marketed as mental health treatment solutions... but they cannot replace the expertise, empathy, and ethical responsibility of a trained clinician.”

AI systems appear therapeutic, but they lack scientific evidence, regulatory safeguards, and accountability. As both a clinician and a parent, I know innovation has promise. But as I wrote, “Allowing machines to pose as licensed professionals is not innovation; it’s negligence.”

House Bill 2318 does something very simple and very necessary:

It prohibits companies from advertising or implying that their AI can act as a mental health professional, diagnose mental illness, or provide psychotherapy. This is not anti technology. This is pro safety, pro transparency, and pro child protection.

We already regulate humans who pretend to be therapists. This bill extends the same basic protection to ensure software cannot masquerade as licensed care.

**As both a clinician and a parent, I urge you to pass HB 2318.
Our children—and our patients—deserve nothing less.**



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JONATHAN RIECK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 11:04 PM	
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As a clinical social worker, the evidence base has consistently shown one of the most important factors which drives positive mental health outcomes is the function, quality, and attunement of the relationship between the client and the provider. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is able to provide canned statements and platitudes, but these are often not helpful in helping people heal from anxiety, depression, trauma, and attachment wounds. AI has been shown to cause harm to individuals living with mental health needs, supporting people to compete suicide like Adam Raine last spring. Artificial intelligence does not belong within the mental health field, a highly nuanced section of the health care system. It is dangerous in the context of mental health care, devastatingly impacts our environment, and does not provide the same level of human connection that a therapist does.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA LEAH HUGHES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 11:17 PM	

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We must protect Missourians suffering from mental health issues, which everyone will experience at one time in their life, from Generative AI and misleading marketing. Already in the United States there have been multiple deaths due to what has been called "AI psychosis". Some of these cases of "AI psychosis" have led to those people dying by suicide. These deaths are preventable by limiting the ability generative AI companies have to advertise to be interventions for mental health treatment. We need this legislation to protect software companies from advertising generative AI based services without the direct discretion of a licensed human mental health provider. I am a mental health provider and licensed clinical social worker in the state of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KRISTEN RATICAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 10:41 PM
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Chair and Members of the Committee,

When someone reaches out for therapy, they are often doing so at one of the most vulnerable moments in their life. They deserve to know whether they are speaking to a licensed professional or an automated system.

My name is Kristen Ratican, and I am a licensed psychotherapist in Missouri and the owner of Speak Now Counseling. I am writing in strong support of HB2318, which prohibits advertising artificial intelligence as providing therapy.

Therapy is a regulated healthcare service that requires years of clinical training, supervised experience, and ethical oversight through state licensing boards. Licensed therapists are trained to assess risk, recognize complex mental health conditions, and respond appropriately in crisis situations.

Artificial intelligence cannot provide these safeguards. AI systems do not have clinical judgment, ethical accountability, or professional oversight. When these tools are marketed as providing “therapy,” it risks misleading vulnerable individuals who may believe they are receiving legitimate mental health care.

At its core, this bill is about consumer protection and transparency in healthcare. People seeking mental health support deserve clear and honest information about the services they are using. Clear standards also help preserve the integrity of regulated mental health professions and the protections those standards are designed to provide for the public.

HB2318 does not limit innovation or the responsible use of technology in mental health care. It simply establishes an important boundary: that AI systems should not be advertised as providing therapy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB2318.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
 Kristen Ratican, MA, LPC

Speak Now Counseling



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY JANE HARMLESS PHD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 8:03 PM
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For the public's safety and clarity in accessing appropriately credentialed mental health professionals and service I support HB2318. I have already had clients report experiences with online mental health service such as Better Health, where they were led to believe that the counselor engaged with was appropriately credentialed to diagnosis and treat their presenting concerns, only to discover upon more fully vetting the individual, that they were not as advertised (did not actually have the degrees and licensure credentials). How would clients needing services ever be able to accurately vet or differentiate AI generated credentials and profiles?



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2318		DATE: 3/12/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: OLIVIA HERRING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 11:31 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am submitting this testimony as a Provisionally Licensed Professional Counselor and a National Certified Counselor with my Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I submit these comments in support of HB 2318. Becoming a therapist in the state of Missouri requires, a Master’s degree, which entails the completion of 60 credit hours, 1100 supervised hours of counseling, and passing two standardized exams; 3000 supervised hours as a provisionally licensed professional counselor; and an additional ethics exam. Upon completion of these requirements, therapists can apply for full licensure which must be approved by the Committee of Professional Counselors before they are able to offer mental health services free from supervision. Despite the constant development of AI, it will not be able to provide services comparable to the immense training of therapists in the state of Missouri. Allowing AI developers to advertise or represent their product as therapy services is harmful to those in need of mental health services. The core of what makes therapy successful is the human relationship formed in the process. AI will never be able to provide that. I have seen first hand how client’s mental health has declined from engaging with AI as a replacement for therapy and the therapeutic rapport it provides. I urge the representatives of this state to adopt this bill to ensure the wellbeing of all Missouri residents, especially those seeking out mental health care.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 3/12/2026 7:00 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

HB 2318 addresses a legitimate consumer-protection concern: preventing artificial intelligence systems from being marketed as licensed mental health professionals or as substitutes for professional therapy.

Representations that software constitutes licensed clinical treatment risk misleading consumers and undermining established professional licensing standards.

However, the bill would benefit from several clarifications to ensure predictable enforcement and avoid unintended restrictions on lawful speech.

The prohibition on representing that AI is “capable of providing therapy services” is not defined and could be interpreted broadly enough to encompass wellness applications, self-help tools, or informational software that does not purport to provide licensed treatment.

Additionally, the definition of “artificial intelligence” and the reference to entities that “develop or deploy” AI may sweep in parties who are not responsible for the underlying representations made to consumers.

Narrowing the statute to focus specifically on misleading representations that an artificial intelligence system constitutes a licensed mental health professional or provides licensed therapeutic treatment would strengthen the bill’s consumer-protection objective while reducing vagueness and enforcement ambiguity.

Clarifying these terms would help ensure the statute targets deceptive claims without inadvertently restricting lawful speech or legitimate digital wellness tools.

With those clarifications, the bill’s objective of preventing deceptive marketing in the mental-health space would be more precisely aligned with established consumer-protection principles.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHIRLEY CRENSHAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 9:24 AM	

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Please prohibit the use of AI in mental health- it has led to many suicides. It is no substitute for licensed professionals



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAJANETTE SCONYERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 1:14 PM	
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People deserve high-quality care from human mental health providers. As a psychologist, I know that people are often extremely vulnerable when they are struggling with their mental health. We need to ensure that they are protected with legislation as they seek to get their mental health needs met by fellow human beings.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ZETH CREWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 6:40 PM	
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I am a clinical social work intern and a practicing mental health case manager at a local community mental health organization. It is my belief that AI technology has demonstrated the capacity to harm Missouri families, owing to the rise of the term "AI induced psychosis" and even contributing to several deaths by suicide. I believe that AI must not be permitted to masquerade as a therapist, it is a public health issue, a threat to Missouri families, and a threat to the integrity of the practice of mental health care.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANN NETZER, LCSW		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a mental health therapist for 14 years, I have witnessed patients come in with psychosis from AI. This is of course a huge public health concern and among the more day-to-day issues, AI only affirms a person's point of view,, which can cause problems in daily life and in their important relationships, as people need to be taught on an individual basis how to deal with difference. This is one of the core tenets of therapy and one that AI simply is incapable of addressing.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNOR GUNNARSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 2:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a new mental health therapist in the field, I cannot do enough to fully express my disagreement with the use of AI in the Mental Health field. People heal through human connection and no AI can replicate that. This will actively harm our capacity to help those who need that healing.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID SISSAC		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 10:36 PM
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The human element required for therapy is not present when it is just man and machine making decisions. We have seen multiple stories globally of AI encouraging suicide, homicide, and other harmful habits based off of harmful diagnosis and the idea of playing therapy with it. While the may tool have its uses, therapy is not one of them.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN CHRISTMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 9:32 AM
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There is privileged information that should be kept in the office only. I believe AI has no business in any mental health institute. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAIGE M LYNCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2026 8:23 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am a licensed professional counselor here in the State of Missouri. I earned my Masters Degree in Counseling from Webster University in 2012, completed the required supervision and clinical hours, and earned my professional license in 2015. I have diligently served my community by providing quality mental health treatment ever since. I have hundreds of hours of continued education, beyond the State requirements. I have an advanced certification in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, which is a globally recognized gold standard treatment for trauma and PTSD, requiring its own consultation hours and continuing education to earn and maintain.

I am not unique in this field. We enter this profession out of a passion to learn, connect with others, and provide the safety necessary to heal deep wounds. The research states, time and again, that it is the relationship between client and clinician that is the largest indicator of change. Our ability to offer an authentic, warm, genuine human interaction, combined with our clinical skills and expertise, is what shepherds people toward the change they seek.

This State has set forth a standard for our profession that no computer has managed to earn. Please do not allow AI to masquerade as therapy. No computer can sit across from someone in a state of genuine suffering, and hold authentic warmth while simultaneously offering expertise honed over a professional lifetime, and tailored to suit that individuals specific needs. There is simply no replacement.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TERESA SCHROEDER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 10:18 PM

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As a Therapist, LPC. I need 2 years of graduate school 2 years of supervision to practice independently. This takes powers of observation of my client as well as intricate understanding of individual client needs. AI cannot replace this. In addition I have a professional duty to warn if a client is homicidal or suicidal, as well as , report abuse. AI cannot do that much less build professional rapport and trust with individuals.