



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2368</b>		DATE: <b>3/5/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Health and Mental Health</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY R. BECK, PHD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>352-428-3734</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1051 S. FREMONT AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65804</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 12:00 AM</b>	

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



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 11:53 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**I am in Support of this Bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRUCE EDDY, PHD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CY NADLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 10:10 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DR. ANN BECKER-SCHUTTE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 2:19 PM</b>	

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

I hope that the committee will support this consumer-protection bill, limiting the ability of AI chatbots to market themselves as mental health providers.

Mental health is a complex issue, impacted by many factors that can't be checked or assessed by an artificial intelligence tool.

Licensed mental health professionals have 3-9 years of graduate training in therapy, diagnosis, assessment, ethics, and other aspects of professional care. We have to complete thousands of hours of supervised practice before licensure. We update our ethics education regularly. Many of us seek peer supervision and support in complex decision making, even after licensure. We are subject to regulation by our licensing board, and required to carry malpractice insurance in case we make mistakes.

AI tools are using algorithms, not discernment, to frame their responses. There is currently no requirement that AI tools demonstrate the integrity of their training data. AI tools are not required to protect the sensitive information that they may be collecting from vulnerable individuals. If an AI chatbot causes harm, there is no licensing board to turn to for accountability. We already have verified instances of chatbots causing harm, including death by suicide. Who is protecting consumers from that?

This bill would help protect Missouri citizens, especially children and adolescents, who don't understand that what they receive from a chatbot is not therapy. It will help protect the title status of mental health professionals who have invested significant time, effort and money in obtaining their credentials. This is not a hypothetical issue. If you look in the app store on your own phone and search for "therapy" or "counseling" you will find multiple AI tools claiming to provide therapy. Missourians are facing this issue right now, and this bill will help build guard rails for their safety.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY CRAWFORD-THOMPSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 10:09 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GARRETT WEBB</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS; MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1219</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>webb@coestrategies.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 8:15 AM</b>	
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The Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 1,100 physicians, trainees, and pediatric provider members across Missouri strongly support placing guardrails which protect the integrity and promote mental health access and counseling services, especially as AI emerges and evolves.

The Missouri Psychological Association supports protecting the integrity of truth in advertising for mental health services.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HEIDI LUCAS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-2740</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 232</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>hlucas@morha.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 2:54 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**The Missouri Rural Health Association supports this bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA HARVATH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 8:15 PM</b>
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AI chatbots are not trained therapists. They are validation machines and seek engagement at the expense of user health and safety, creating false relationships and encouraging dependency on the chatbot instead of supporting individuals in engaging in healthy behaviors or increasing social support. As a licensed St. Louis psychologist, I am deeply concerned about the documented ways that AI chatbots cause harm, even chatbots masquerading as "therapy" or "support" bots.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA PETRIE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-6092</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS - MO CHAPTER</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1805</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 8:17 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MADALYN SCHNEIDER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 2:08 PM</b>	

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**Please prevent the advertising of AI chatbots as mental health professionals or as capable of providing therapy/mental health diagnoses!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MADISON EACRET</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA JOY WEBB</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 8:44 AM</b>	
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**This is essential to protect the public and mental health consumers.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA ROTHSCHILD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 4:30 PM</b>	
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I am in support of preventing the advertising of AI chatbots as mental health professionals or as capable of providing therapy/mental health diagnoses. AI chatbots are not a substitute for trained and licensed mental health professionals, and they pose a very serious risk to the public.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PAUL T. KORTE, PHD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RUDRA KANSARA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 6:34 PM</b>
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I stand in support of this bill as AI has shown to be not just an ineffective tool to manage mental health, but it has also provided dangerous responses. A Stanford study found that therapy chatbots displayed harmful stigma against mental health conditions such as schizophrenia and alcohol use disorder, which could drive patients away from necessary care. Furthermore, AI therapy chatbots have promoted suicidal behavior in some cases, with the Stanford study claiming that chatbots would provide locations of tall bridges even when the user expresses suicidal intent. Lastly, therapy chatbots have been shown to reinforce patients' paranoia and delusions, which has disastrous implications for the patient. Ultimately, we should immediately seek to place regulations on AI, and we should especially seek to prevent the use of therapy chatbots.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TA'JANETTE SCONYERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 8:58 PM</b>
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I am in support of this bill because human beings deserve to receive mental health services from qualified human mental health providers. As a psychologist, I am well aware of how vulnerable people can be when they are dealing with mental health challenges. It is our duty to protect them with legislation that ensures that they receive quality care from human mental health professionals.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TYLER TRAVERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS - MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL: <b>tyler.vertexgov@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 6:29 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 7:14 AM</b>	

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HB 2368 prohibits developers or deployers of artificial intelligence from advertising or representing that AI can act as a mental health professional or provide therapy services. While consumer protection in mental health services is a legitimate concern, this bill raises significant legal and policy concerns due to its sweeping and vague definition of artificial intelligence.

The bill defines AI so broadly that it could include a wide range of existing software tools, including screening tools, chatbot support systems, automated triage systems, and digital wellness applications that assist users in accessing mental health resources.

Because the definition extends to any artificial system performing tasks requiring human-like cognition or learning from data, the statute risks capturing technologies that were never intended to be regulated as substitutes for licensed therapists.

Such broad language creates serious vagueness concerns, leaving developers uncertain about what technologies may trigger liability under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act. Vague regulatory standards can discourage beneficial innovation in areas such as crisis screening tools, mental health access platforms, and support technologies that help connect individuals to licensed professionals.

Missouri already regulates the practice of licensed mental health professions through existing licensing statutes. Expanding liability through an overly broad AI definition risks creating confusion without clearly improving consumer protection.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to clarify the scope of this legislation before advancing HB 2368.