

Draft: Child AI Safety and Accountability Act

119th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. ____

To establish enforceable safeguards for minors’ use of artificial intelligence chatbots, require transparency and accountability from providers, and protect children’s privacy and safety online.

SECTION 0. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **Findings.** Congress finds the following:

1. Artificial intelligence chatbots are increasingly accessible to minors and may expose them to unsafe, manipulative, or exploitative content.
2. Existing law does not provide enforceable safeguards to ensure that minors’ data is protected or that AI systems are subject to independent oversight.
3. Symbolic or educational guidance alone is insufficient to protect children from the risks posed by AI chatbots.
4. Enforceable standards, transparency, and accountability are necessary to safeguard minors while preserving innovation.

(b) **Purpose.** The purpose of this Act is—

1. to establish enforceable age-verification and parental consent requirements for AI chatbots;
2. to mandate transparency in data collection, retention, and use;
3. to require independent audits of safety and privacy practices;
4. to empower the Federal Trade Commission to enforce compliance through penalties and public dashboards; and
5. to ensure that parents and the public have real-time visibility into provider compliance.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “**Child AI Safety and Accountability Act.**”

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

1. **AI Chatbot** — any artificial intelligence system, marketed to or accessible by consumers, that engages in interactive, natural-language communication and generates or selects content in response to user inputs (including text, voice, or other inputs) using a conversational context.
2. **Minor** — an individual under 18 years of age.
3. **Provider** — any entity that develops, markets, or operates an AI chatbot accessible to U.S. consumers.
4. **Commission** — the Federal Trade Commission.
5. **Parent** — includes a legal guardian of a minor.

SECTION 3. AGE VERIFICATION AND ACCESS CONTROLS.

- (a) **Age-Gating Requirement.** Providers shall implement verifiable age-gating mechanisms before granting access to AI chatbots.
- (b) **Parental Consent.** AI chatbots accessible to minors shall include parental consent mechanisms and usage dashboards visible to guardians.
- (c) **Default Protections.** Providers shall configure AI chatbots to default to the highest privacy and safety settings for users identified as minors.

SECTION 4. TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) **Plain-Language Disclosures.** Each Provider shall publish, in clear and conspicuous form, a statement describing—
1. the categories of data collected from minors;
 2. the purposes for which such data is used;
 3. whether such data is retained, shared, or used for training; and
 4. the retention period for such data.
- (b) **Accessibility.** Disclosures required under subsection (a) shall be—
1. made available to the public without charge;
 2. provided in machine-readable format; and
 3. updated not less than once every 12 months.

SECTION 5. SAFETY AUDITS.

- (a) **Annual Audit.** Each Provider shall undergo an independent third-party audit, not less than once every 12 months, to evaluate—
1. the effectiveness of age-gating mechanisms;
 2. the adequacy of content safety filters; and

3. compliance with data privacy and retention requirements.

(b) **Audit Reports.** Audit results shall be—

1. submitted to the Commission; and
2. published on a public website maintained by the Commission.

(c) **Certification.** Providers shall certify compliance with audit requirements as a condition of continued operation in the United States.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

(a) **Authority.** The Commission shall enforce this Act under the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(b) **Civil Penalties.** Any Provider that violates this Act shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$50,000 per violation per minor.

(c) **Cease-and-Desist Orders.** The Commission may issue cease-and-desist orders against Providers found in violation.

(d) **Referral.** Willful or repeated violations may be referred by the Commission to the Attorney General for civil action.

SECTION 7. PUBLIC DASHBOARDS.

(a) **Establishment.** The Commission shall establish and maintain a publicly accessible online dashboard displaying—

1. the compliance status of each Provider;
2. the results of annual safety audits; and
3. enforcement actions taken under this Act.

(b) **Updates.** The dashboard shall be updated not less than once every 30 days.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment.