



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 13 2025**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1064 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit making a companion chatbot available to users under 18 years of age, unless the chatbot is not foreseeably capable of certain actions.

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to become more embedded in our daily lives, it is essential that widely used tools, such as chatbots, operate responsibly, transparently, and with user well-being in mind. These standards are especially important for users who are most vulnerable to AI's harmful impacts, particularly minors. A handful of disturbing instances of inappropriate – and in some cases, outright dangerous – interactions with conversational AI tools have been reported that we, as a society, have a responsibility to address.

This is why I recently signed SB 243 (Padilla), which requires chatbot platforms to establish protocols to detect, remove, and respond to instances of suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm expressed by users. That bill requires reporting on these protocols to the California Department of Public Health, to better equip policymakers and stakeholders to understand the potential impact of companion chatbot interactions on mental health. As for younger users, SB 243 further requires operators to disclose to minors that they are interacting with AI, provide periodic reminders to take a break and that the chatbot is artificially generated, and prevent chatbots from producing sexually explicit material.

While I strongly support the author's goal of establishing necessary safeguards for the safe use of AI by minors, AB 1064 imposes such broad restrictions on the use of conversational AI tools that it may unintentionally lead to a total ban on

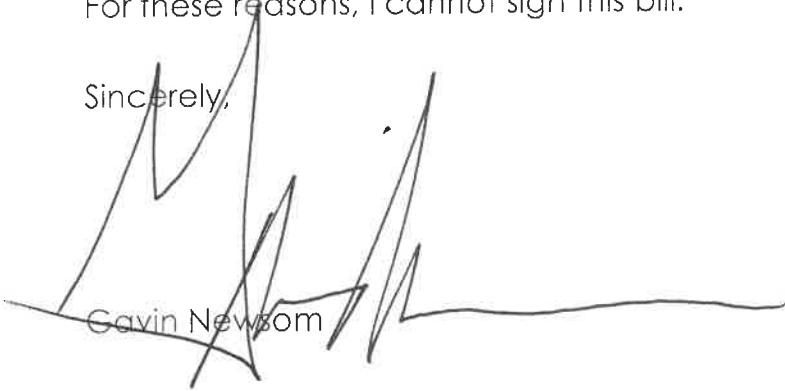


the use of these products by minors. AI is already shaping the world, and it is imperative that adolescents learn how to safely interact with AI systems. This extends far beyond knowing how to use technology tools, such as conversational chatbots, and includes an understanding of what AI is, how it functions, and how to critically evaluate AI-generated content for algorithmic bias, misinformation, and other risks. We cannot prepare our youth for a future where AI is ubiquitous by preventing their use of these tools altogether.

The types of interactions that this bill seeks to address are abhorrent, and I am fully committed to finding the right approach to protect children from these harms in a manner that does not effectively ban the use of the technology altogether. I will work with my partners in the Legislature to build on the framework established by SB 243 (Padilla), to develop a bill next year that ensures young people can use AI in a manner that is safe, age-appropriate, and in the best interests of children and their future.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom