



July 20, 2026

The Honorable Steve Padilla
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1119 (Padilla): Companion chatbots: children's safety – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Padilla:

Omidyar Network supports SB 1119 (Padilla) and its companion bill AB 2023 (Wicks and Bauer-Kahan), which strengthen children's safety when they use companion AI. The bills take a measured approach that builds on existing protections for young people using chatbots.

Omidyar Network's philanthropic and investment efforts have continued for more than two decades and stem from our founder's work at two great California companies, PayPal and eBay. We envision a world where our shared humanity steers our digital future. So far, we have committed nearly \$2 billion to initiatives that share our vision.

As AI-enabled companion chatbots become more accessible to minors, the potential for harm grows. A survey by Common Sense Media found that 72% of teens have used AI companions at least once, and more than half use them a few times a month. A separate study by the digital-safety company Aura found that nearly one in three teens use chatbots for social interactions and relationships.

SB 1119 and AB 2023 establish a comprehensive, proactive design framework to identify and mitigate child safety risks with the use of companion chatbots before harm occurs. The bills, which build on last year's SB 243, create a structured process to evaluate how the design, configuration, and operation of these systems may contribute to harmful outcomes, helping to identify both compliance gaps and foreseeable risks. AB 2023 and SB 1119 do not prohibit innovation or limit beneficial uses of AI. They create clear, workable requirements rooted in the expectation that child safety be built into the design and operation of these technologies.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 1119 and AB 2023 and thank you for bringing forward this important measure.

Sincerely,

Anamitra Deb
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