



1455 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

August 28, 2026

From:
OpenAI

To:
The Honorable
Gavin Newsom,
Governor of
California

1021 O Street,
Suite 9000
Sacramento,
California 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 1119 (Padilla, Wicks, Bauer-Kahan) - Companion chatbots: children's safety
- SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom:

We appreciate your leadership in advancing the safe use of AI by young people and commend Senator Steve Padilla and Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks and Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for their tireless work on this important issue. OpenAI strongly supports Senate Bill 1119 and the thoughtful, meaningful safeguards it establishes. The bill builds on youth safety measures that OpenAI has long supported and advanced through our products, [global policy principles](#), advocacy efforts in California, and leadership on the [Parents & Kids Safe AI Act](#).

Teens are the first generation growing up with AI, and this technology will play an important role in shaping their future. Today, nearly nine in ten teens who use ChatGPT turn to it for learning, information, skill-building, or productivity in a given week. That is why we believe it is critical not only to preserve teens' access to AI, but to treat teens like teens—providing experiences designed around their distinct developmental needs, with stronger protections and appropriate opportunities to learn, create, and explore.

SB 1119 pairs robust protections with continued access to AI tools that can help young people learn, grow, and prepare for the future. With these protections in place, California has an opportunity to set a strong standard for youth AI safety. We support the bill's key provisions, including requirements to:

- Determine a user's age
- Identify and address safety risks before making a product available to young people;
- Undergo independent audits;
- Protect young people from harmful content including self-harm, sexually exploitative content, and other high-risk interactions;
- Provide parents with tools to guide and limit their children's use;
- Connect young people with crisis-support resources when serious safety risks arise; and
- Limit targeted advertising and protect young people's personal information.

For users identified as ages 13 through 17, these protections should apply automatically. OpenAI has put this commitment into practice through ChatGPT for Teens, an age-appropriate learning experience automatically provided to teen users and built on our longstanding work to create safe, positive experiences for young people.

ChatGPT for Teens ensures teens receive stronger default protections in sensitive areas—including self-harm, violence, eating disorders, dangerous activities, and sexual or graphic content—alongside healthy-use features such as Quiet Hours, Study Hours, and break reminders. Our [Under-18 Model Spec](#)—a public document that sets rules for how our models should interact with young people—prohibits romantic engagement, encouragement of emotional dependence, or making claims that ChatGPT is human or sentient. And we offer parental controls that allow families to manage key settings for their teens and receive notifications in high-risk situations.

ChatGPT for Teens is also purpose-built to help teens learn and think critically. It includes tools like Quizzes, Learning Visualizations and Study Mode, developed with educators and learning experts, to guide students through problems step by step—helping them deepen understanding and build stronger learning habits. Context-aware capabilities, including memory, are integral to this safe, age-appropriate experience; they allow ChatGPT to apply safeguards consistently, recognize concerning patterns, and provide more useful learning support over time.



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SB 1119 appropriately recognizes that AI is not social media. In contrast to legislation focused on the risk of addictive social media feeds, this bill is designed to establish safeguards tailored to how young people use AI—to learn, create, and explore. In crafting the bill, policymakers sought to preserve access to educational and safety-critical features—including responsible uses of memory—while promoting a safe, age-appropriate ChatGPT experience for teens ages 13 through 17.

We appreciate your leadership and the Legislature’s thoughtful work to advance a comprehensive framework for youth AI safety, and we share your commitment to ensuring California gets this important issue right. Continued study and collaboration throughout implementation will provide opportunities to improve key provisions and ensure the framework remains effective as the technology evolves. By combining meaningful accountability with robust, age-appropriate protections that apply automatically to teen users—and preserving access to safe, educational, and developmentally appropriate AI tools like ChatGPT for Teens—SB 1119 establishes a strong framework for advancing youth AI safety in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ann O'Leary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Ann O’Leary
Vice President, Global Policy
OpenAI