

Testimony in Support of People's AI Bill - SB0827

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My name is Anthony See. I am a lifelong Prince George's County, Maryland resident and a student at Gonzaga College High School. I am the Assistant to the National President with the American Youth Association. I am testifying in support of the People's AI Bill in response to AI's rapidly growing role in my life through school, politics, and everything in between.

I've personally seen the risks with unregulated AI systems in regard to my peers and my family, from friends being manipulated by AI chatbots and developing unhealthy dependencies on their interaction to family members being targeted by AI-driven scams. Through personal experimentation with LLMs, I've found that they can encourage unrealistic or harmful ideas when not properly regulated. The time to develop legislation countering these harms is now. If Maryland wants to establish itself as a nationwide leader in protecting the vulnerable from this new technology, passing the People's AI Bill is the first step.

Mental Health America ranks Maryland 40th in youth mental health, with a 2021 census finding that 22% of Maryland's youth have experienced at least one Major Depressive Episode in the last year. Growing up in Prince George's County during COVID and attending Saint Columba Middle School, many of my peers experienced mental health issues. In a state where this is such a persistent issue, it is paramount that Maryland enact legislation like the People's AI Bill to protect our most vulnerable residents and those set to inherit our state. By requiring chatbots to explicitly identify as non-human and not to claim they can provide qualified medical, legal, or financial advice, the People's AI Chatbot Bill puts our most vulnerable first.

This legislation protects everyday Marylanders by requiring express, informed consent before they can be the subjects of training language models. The bill also prevents them from being unfairly targeted by manipulative AI-driven advertising.

The People's AI Bill lays the foundation for Maryland's future in a new age of technology. Under Section 5 of the People's AI Chatbot Bill, the bill explicitly lays the foundation for the future by providing avenues for Maryland authorities to enact further rulings. Furthermore, Section 8 permits Maryland authorities to bring civil action against chatbot providers in violation of this bill.

In short, I've seen firsthand the effects of unregulated AI in Maryland, especially on our youth. For the state to establish itself as a national leader in AI policy, I respectfully petition the committee to give SB 827 a favorable report.

