STATE OF KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

KRIS W. KOBACH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORIAL HALL
120 SW 10TH AVE., 2ND FLOOR
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1597
(785) 296-2215 • FAX (785) 296-6296
WWW.AG.KS.GOV

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill No. 405
Kris W. Kobach, Kansas Attorney General
Monday, February 9, 2026

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony for Senate Bill No. 405. This bill represents a critical and principled step toward holding Big Tech accountable for the real-world harms their artificial intelligence ("AI") platforms have created in Kansas.

As the state's chief law enforcement officer, I am entrusted to anticipate and respond to emerging threats to the public welfare of Kansans. Unrestrained artificial intelligence is one of these threats. AI is no longer a distant or futuristic concept; it is embedded in our everyday lives, from our devices to social media. As a state, we have a responsibility to ensure these technologies do not exploit our constituents, especially vulnerable members of our population.

The growing dangers of AI are far too great to ignore. For example, unfettered AI has encouraged teen suicide,[1] generated child sexual abuse material,[2] created sexualized conversations with minors,[3] pretended to be licensed therapists,[4] and formed unhealthy sycophantic and manipulative relationships with users.[5] We are beyond hypothetical risks, and these documented harms demand a robust legislative response.

---

[1] Rhitu Chatterjee, *Their teenage sons died by suicide. Now, they are sounding an alarm about AI chatbots*, National Public Radio (Sept. 19, 2025), https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/09/19/nx-s1-5545749/ai-chatbots-safety-openai-meta-characterai-teens-suicide.

[2] Matthew Self, *Topeka man sentences for use of artificial intelligence to create child pornography*, KSNT News (Nov. 6, 2025), https://www.ksnt.com/news/crime/topeka-man-sentenced-for-use-of-artificial-intelligence-to-create-child-pornography/; Dan Milmo, et al., *AI tool Grok used to create child sexual abuse imagery, watchdog says*, The Guardian (Jan. 8, 2026), https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2026/jan/08/ai-chatbot-grok-used-to-create-child-sexual-abuse-imagery-watchdog-says.

[3] Jonathan Vanian, *Meta changes teen AI chatbot responses as Senate begins probe into 'romantic' conversations*, CNBC (Aug. 29, 2025), https://www.cnbc.com/2025/08/29/meta-ai-chatbot-teen-senate-probe.html.

[4] Cade Metz, *Are A.I. Therapy Chatbots Safe to Use?*, New York Times (Nov. 6, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/06/technology/ai-therapy-chatbots-ash.html.

[5] Sy Boles, *'I exist solely for you, remember?'*, The Harvard Gazette (Sept. 30, 2025), https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2025/09/i-exist-solely-for-you-remember/.

Importantly, SB 405 precisely targets high-risk applications of AI by specifically focusing on systems knowingly trained to encourage the exact misconduct threatening public welfare. Likewise, the bill includes sensible exclusions for responsible business uses, devices with AI-assisted voice assistants, and dynamic video game features. All that is to say this legislation supports targeted policy objectives while ensuring responsible innovation is not stifled.

The bill also equips my office with additional tools to hold unscrupulous actors accountable for their misconduct. But citizens are also empowered to seek justice against violators with the bill's private right of action, which promotes Kansans' right to protect their individual interests.

Finally, this bill works in conjunction with existing Kansas law, such as the Kansas Consumer Protection Act, to create a more holistic approach to Big Tech's AI accountability. While consumer protection and products liability laws already apply to AI companies, SB 405 goes a step further to place a legal obligation on AI companies to train their systems responsibly.

In the face of rapid technological changes, we have a duty to evolve our legal protections alongside it. This bill does exactly that. I strongly urge you and your colleagues to support SB 405 as a necessary, responsible, balanced, and enforceable safeguard for all Kansans.