KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

An Organization Dedicated to Improving the Lives of Kansans with Mental Illnesses

Testimony presented to the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Support SB 405

February 9, 2026

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee,

KMHC supports SB 405 to protect families from the devastating impacts of suicide when AI encourages people to self-harm. In a world where technology is outpacing citizens' understanding of its impacts on real life personal interactions, states are seeking to draw lines to penalize AI creators if their models suggest or encourage self-harm, suicidal ideation or public violence.

Nearly every day, we hear stories how AI interactions occur in unpredictable and sometimes harmful ways. And yet, there has been very little education for the average user.

We believe it is important for states to identify and implement oversight and regulation where possible to limit the possibility of more families experiencing the loss that has already occurred. It is important to set up some kind of limitations to prevent individuals in crisis from relying on artificial intelligence instead of seeking out trained mental health professionals.

We encourage Kansas to review the options being pursued across the country and implement reasonable limits and oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss these issues further.

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