

20 Lewis St.
Providence, RI 02906
March 26, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support H8052, the bill allowing lawsuits over injuries caused by AI. I am a member of Rhode Islanders for Personal Privacy.

AI is a technology in its infancy, which is still experiencing issues in finding its way and certainly involves substantial risks to people. There is no doubt that it can have very big effects on people's lives, such as when AI facilitates crimes or encourages users to harm themselves or others. Some will tell you that, just because AI is a new industry, we should protect the industry from accountability in court. In fact, the opposite is true. AI companies need to have the accountability provided by civil cases, to ensure the companies are incentivized to follow the law and employ true due diligence to prevent harms.

AI is not just another risky industry. It is an unprecedentedly risky one which is quickly developing. It has also had some success in trying to enact extraordinary measures to shield itself from accountability. Last year, the initial draft of Congress's One Big Beautiful Bill Act would have placed a complete 10-year moratorium on any sort of state regulation of AI. There was a huge backlash and that provision was stripped from the bill, because the public is far more skeptical of AI than AI's cheerleaders are and people want AI to be accountable.

When human employees do things wrong on the job, the company hiring those humans can be held liable and the humans can sometimes even be prosecuted for negligence or

other crimes. But when humans are replaced by AI systems, as increasingly happens, and the AI systems commit their own wrong acts or even make mistakes humans are very unlikely to make, the vendor that provided that AI system can't be sued, even if in reality the problem was entirely their fault. Making AI vendors unaccountable in court, even for problems that could be easily pursued in court if a human employee rather than AI had been responsible, means that either no one will be held accountable or the wrong people will be blamed. AI vendors should not be allowed to let others bear the burden of their own lack of due diligence and hastiness in putting products on the market that have not been adequately tested.

If this means that some AI vendors won't bring products to market which are very dangerous, that is a good thing. We need to ensure that the pace of rolling out AI is not so fast that the AI systems cause a wide range of serious and even fatal harms that could easily have been avoided if the legal system gave AI vendors the same accountability that humans currently face in non-AI contexts.

Sincerely,

Randall Rose