



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 24, 2026

Senator Victoria Gu
Chair, Senate Committee on Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Tech
82 Smith St, Room 313
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for S2195 and S2197: An Act Relating To Commercial Law--General Regulatory Provisions -- Artificial Intelligence Companion Models

Dear Senator Gu:

I write to you in support of two bills which are in your committee--S2195: An Act Relating To Commercial Law--General Regulatory Provisions -- Artificial Intelligence Companion Models and S2197: An Act Relating To Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities And Hospitals -- Oversight Of Artificial Intelligence Technology In Mental Health Care Act. These bills creates additional safety features for AI companion technology that include addressing suicidal ideation and establishes regulations regarding the use of artificial intelligence in mental health care treatments, respectively.

Roughly a million people talk to ChatGPT about suicide every week, according to OpenAI's own estimates. In a study conducted by Brown University, chatbots were found to routinely violate core counseling ethics and often failed to recognize dangerous mental health patterns that can lead to physical injury. As Artificial Intelligence continues to emerge as a technology adopted by many Rhode Islanders, it is crucial that we establish guardrails to protect the health and wellness of those users.

That is why I support S2195 and S2197, a bill which will require that any operator or provider of an AI companion establish and maintain standard protocols for recognizing harmful self-talk and behavioral patterns. For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Senator Lori Urso