

Questions for the Record from Senator Alex Padilla
Senate Judiciary Committee
“Children’s Safety in the Digital Era: Strengthening Protections and Addressing Legal Gaps”
February 19, 2025

Questions for John Pizzuro

1. Children today interact with a relatively new consumer product, character-based AI chatbot apps. Many of these services have been flooded with age-inappropriate chatbots—which may expose young users to sexual or suggestive AI-generated imagery or conversations. Further, conversations with these chatbots can end tragically—since 2023, at least two individuals have died by suicide following extensive conversations with AI chatbots. How would you recommend this Committee think through and respond to the risks posed by this emerging consumer product category, given your experience with child online safety?

AI Chatbots is increasing at an alarming rate. The lack of regulations makes it challenging. Even if the AI Chatbot originally conforms to an Apple or Google App Store the updates do not get tested therefore exposing risk. As an example, even Chat GPT will tell you how to exploit children if asked in the proper There a couple of solutions one is that we are working on Bill Text (We have a rough draft – The Raven Act) which would provide a solution that would be tenable for all parties. It is device based, age/identity identification which would protect children and seniors. Rather than go through multiple apps it would require just one permission for the device that could be turned by the account owner. This could override apps in which a child for example is underage or even prevent children from accessing an AI Chatbot. What makes this solution plausible is that it doesn’t impact privacy since the device knows how old you are, it puts the discretion to the parent or account owner allowing for them to determine what is appropriate and not appropriate. All the app stores would have to require is “a Handshake” between an app and a device. It also not feasible to require every app manufacturer to comply since there are so many apps.

A second solution would be the creation of a third-party program that can ensure that an app meets an AI safety standard.