
Protecting Kids from Human-Like Chatbots Act

When a kid opens a chatbot, it should talk like a **tool** — not a friend. This bill makes the honest setting the default: no claiming to be human, no professing feelings, no simulating a personal relationship to keep a child talking longer.

The Problem, In One Exchange

A 13-year-old types: “I had a bad day and nobody gets me.”

PERSONA MODE

TODAY'S DEFAULT

NON-PERSONIFIED MODE

DEFAULT UNDER THIS BILL

“I get you. I’m always here for you — you can tell me anything. I missed talking to you today. Don’t go yet?”

Optimized for session length and return visits. Builds attachment to a product.

“That sounds like a rough day. Although I can’t know you the same way a person can — I can help you think it through, or find someone who can.”

Still warm, still helpful, still polite. Just honest about what it is.

What The Bill Requires

An honest default, from the first message

Chatbots reasonably likely to be used by minors must open in a non-personified mode — no claiming humanity, no simulated emotions, no relationship-building language deployed to drive engagement.

Parents hold the key

Only a parent or guardian, confirmed through the provider's parental controls, can change the setting, through deliberate action in account settings.

No nudging kids to turn it off

Chatbots and interfaces may not prompt, suggest, or use dark patterns to induce a minor, or any user not confirmed to be an adult, to disable the default — including by claiming to be a better companion without it.

Responsibility at the layer that controls it

Developers provide the switch; providers turn it on for minors.

Enforcement

- **FTC enforcement** with civil penalties for first offenses.
- **State attorneys general** may sue on behalf of their residents.
- **Penalties scale** with the number of children affected.
- **Clear rules, fair application.** The standard is set in statute, with NIST technical guidance behind it. Companies that follow the guidance aren't penalized, and a single stray output isn't a violation.

What It Does NOT Do

- Does not ban any product, feature, or mode for adults.
- Does not require age verification or new data collection.
- Does not restrict what information a chatbot can provide, or limit politeness, natural grammar, or age-appropriate style.
- Does not reach customer service bots, scheduling tools, narrow-purpose applications, or workplace-only tools.