

# Advocacy groups call for 'commonsense guardrails' for children using AI, social media

Anna Kleiber Jun 7, 2026 1

**F**or Michele Neily, the fight against Big Tech is personal.

Neily, a retired FBI agent and mother of three teenage boys, said she has seen firsthand how technology affects children, noting that the cases she's handled the past few years all had connections to social media.

"I saw too many kids that overdosed on fentanyl pills they bought off Snapchat and having to rescue little girls from hotel rooms because they were groomed on social media," Neily said. "You see the addiction that these kids have to this technology, and it's really scary to me as a parent, as a citizen and as a law enforcement officer."

As the leader of the Omaha chapter of Mothers Against Media Addiction, or MAMA, an **advocacy group** created to protect minors from the harms of media addiction, Neily is right where she wants to be: on the front lines of MAMA's fight to better protect kids online.



Michele Neily  
Courtesy photo

MAMA's 52 chapters in 26 states have worked to educate parents, remove smartphones from classrooms and ensure technology has basic safeguards. Part of that work includes pushing for clearer safeguards for minors online.

"In a perfect world, we would go back to paper and pencil, but again there's so much technology in the world you have to have a balance," Neily said.

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While MAMA's focus has mostly been on social media, Neily expects the group will start to increase its focus on AI as the technology continues to evolve.

"My fear, as far as AI goes, is Nebraska doesn't have a story yet. Do we want to wait until we have the story?" Neily said. "We need to protect our children. We have stop signs, we have streetlights, you can't drink and drive. We have commonsense guardrails, and for whatever reason we just can't seem to get there with AI."

A July 2025 **Common Sense Media** survey found that 72% of teens have used human-like AI chatbots as companions at least once, with more than half of those surveyed using them a few times a month.

Roughly two-thirds of U.S. teens reported using AI chatbots, with 3 in 10 saying they do so daily, according to a **Pew Research Center report** published in December 2025. ChatGPT was the most widely used AI chatbot model, with 59% of respondents saying they use it.