MAMA
Mothers Against
Media Addiction

NEW YORK GOV. HOCHUL SIGNS BILL TO PROTECT KIDS FROM AI CHATBOTS

OCTOBER 28, 2026 (New York) - In response to Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York signing a bill designed to protect children from artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots, Julie Scelfo, Founder and Executive Director of Mothers Against Media Addiction (MAMA), released the following statement:

"The bill signed by Gov. Hochul today is a critical step to keep children across New York safe from dangerous interactions with AI chatbots. We have seen far too many examples of tech companies allowing their chatbots to participate in erotic or sexually explicit interactions with children and encourage physical self-harm, disordered eating, or illegal activity. As a result, young people have been manipulated, traumatized, or even driven to self-harm or suicide by these so-called AI 'companions.' By signing this legislation, the governor is making clear that AI companies cannot put our children at risk with their products.

This legislation adds to the Gov. Hochul's strong track record of legislation designed to create safeguards to shield children from the harms of addictive technology. We are grateful to the governor for listening to the MAMA members and parents all over New York who advocated diligently for these critical protections for children. Her continued leadership on this issue demonstrates why we were proud to honor her with the MAMA Defender of Children Award at our Fall Benefit last week. These policies bring us closer to a world where every child can experience a healthy childhood and where technology serves children and families — not the other way around."