

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE 2025

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

October 9, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force 2025 was held on October 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Josh Bray, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Josh Bray, Co-Chair; Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Co-Chair; Senators Michael J. Nemes, Steve Rawlings, Reginald L. Thomas, and Gex Williams; and Representatives Matthew Lehman, Derek Lewis, and J.T. Payne.

Guests: Representative Lisa Willner; Brenda Rosen, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Kentucky; Hank Cecil, Chair, Kentucky Board of Social Work (KBSW); Representative Matt Lockett; and Chelsey Youman, Senior Counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF).

LRC Staff: Janine Coy, Christian Deeter, Christina Gordley, and Lisa W. Moore.

Approval of the September 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Representative Lewis and seconded by Co-Chair Mays Bledsoe to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Using AI to Protect Therapists and Clients

Representative Willner and Brenda Rosen, Executive Director, NASW, explained how to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and provide guardrails to protect therapists and clients.

Ms. Rosen said AI chatbots are not licensed mental health therapists. They are not able to develop empathy or trust that comes with a live, licensed therapist. There have been instances where minors inflicted harm or acted out on suicidal ideation after speaking with an AI chatbot. AI therapy services are not confidential and do not adhere to Health Insurance Portability and Insurance Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements. AI chatbots used for commercialization may lead to privacy violations, inaccurate information, and manipulation. She said AI services can be a helpful resource for therapeutic purposes, especially for those who need that support but struggle to access professional help.

Representative Willner explained that the mental health profession has clear rules that govern mental health treatment. Licensed therapists practice under a strict regulatory regimen, including a formal code of ethics and mandatory reporting laws that prioritize preventing suicide and homicide, as well as abuse of children and the elderly. Violating these standards can result in significant disciplinary and legal consequences. Social media has demonstrated the power and profitability of how more personalized algorithms keep people engaged online, frequently spending more time than they wanted and making purchases they did not plan. Key concerns with AI chatbots include the risk of abusing a user's trust for commercial gain, the potential for deceptive practices, and the failure to adequately disclose that the user is not interacting with a human. She provided five general legislative recommendations to safeguard the public, especially minors, in the use of AI chatbots.

Responding to Representative Lewis regarding future policy, Representative Willner said mental health experts should be involved in advising the committee on future legislation. She agreed tools can emerge from AI to assist school districts and certain professions.

Responding to Co-Chair Mays Bledsoe, Representative Willner agreed Google is a great example of a search engine that is endorsed as safe and factual, but is not always accurate. Ms. Rosen said Illinois and Nevada have both passed legislation to regulate the use of AI, particularly in mental health and employment. Licensed mental health professionals can use AI for administrative support, such as scheduling and billing, but must independently review all AI-generated content. Public schools cannot use AI to perform the duties of a school counselor, psychologist, or social worker related to students' mental health. It is very important for minors to not replace all human interaction with screen time. Representative Willner said she supports the idea of a multistate pact.

Responding to Representative Lehman regarding the position of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Representative Willner said AI tools are being utilized in school districts in the Commonwealth. Representative Lehman said regulating AI chatbots would be difficult if 50 states have different rules and regulations. Representative Willner agreed the AI Taskforce's recommendations should fall within federal guidelines. However, she expressed that given the danger presented to children, it may be too risky to wait for FDA approval of AI mental health chatbots. Ms. Rosen said chatbots can have biases against addiction, depression, or substance abuse, which can affect responses and advice. She will continue to track national trends and report back to the committee.

Responding to Senator Nemes, Representative Willner said a panel of experts could advise the legislature and establish parameters without creating a new board. Senator Nemes is leery of the legislature giving up power to a board to make all the decisions. He agrees the AI chatbots are programmer biased which should be monitored.

Senator Thomas reiterated that AI chatbots should operate using the same guidelines as a licensed, human mental health professional. He supports the recommendations of protecting patient privacy, no commercialization, not using client sessions for the training of AI models, having approved AI programmers, and requiring written parental consent for minors.

Responding to Senator Williams regarding the licensing of AI chatbots, Ms. Rosen said medical chatbots should not be prescribing medication to patients. She said mental health professionals want to work collaboratively with the AI medical field to serve clients. She said WEB MD has disclaimers. Representative Willner said AI mental health chatbots can be deceptive, so a disclaimer would be a great place to start to provide consumers clear and accurate information.

Chair Bray said data privacy remains a concern. He also believes in strong parental controls and age of consent restrictions to limit access to certain content for minors.

AI Safety for Behavioral Health

Hank Cecil, Chair, KBSW, testified in support of AI safety for behavioral health. He emphasized data security, the need for transparency, and risk assessments for suicide. He emphasized the need for collaboration from all branches of government, especially those agencies involved in social work and telehealth. Kentucky needs to prepare for technology changes and provide adequate oversight that requires more than the creation of a new board.

Protecting Minors from Social Media Harms

Representative Lockett and Chelsey Youman, Senior Counsel, ADF, explained the importance of protecting minors from social media harms. Representative Lockett discussed legislation protecting minors online through the verification of age. Other states have passed similar bills that have been challenged or struck down in court. Social media laws have been challenged as violating the First Amendment. Currently, minors have been able to fake age verification and continue with the account without further verification. The presenters advocated that Kentucky law should provide model legislation for the rest of the country by protecting minors and parents.

Ms. Youman said the Stops Harms from Addictive Social Media (SHASM) Act builds on existing legal precedent to ensure the law protects children and survives legal challenges. The harm to children presented by social media includes an addictive design. A brain exposed frequently to social media closely resembles a brain hooked on the most highly addictive drugs. The addictive design features are causing decline in mental health and increase in self-harm and suicidality. The algorithms can expose minors to drug-related or

sexual content online.

Responding to Senator Williams, Ms. Youman said the 16 years of age requirement builds on the Children's Online Protection Rule (COPPA), which imposes requirements on operators of websites or online services directed to children under 13 years of age. She said research shows that no amount of social media time is safe, particularly for minors because of the vulnerability of developing brains. Parental controls should be utilized to determine time limits for children online. SHASM requires platforms to regularly refine or correct their age estimate for users.

Responding to Representative Lehman, Representative Lockett said the proposed legislation focuses its requirements on large social media platforms with annual revenues in excess of \$1 billion. He noted sports gambling applications and websites could be included in future discussions.

Responding to Senator Thomas, Representative Lockett said the legislation is not intended to take AI away from students or schools. The goal of his legislation is to protect children from the addictive nature of social media, such as Facebook and TikTok. There is a need to regulate what companies are marketing to children and the data they are collecting.

Responding to Senator Nemes, Ms. Youman said children who are online need to be safe. She is not sure if there is a mechanism to notify parents when children log on to certain applications, such as Instagram, but she will research and report back. Representative Lockett said not all parents parent in responsible ways and that is why safeguards are necessary.

Chair Bray said age verification for AI may need to be discussed. Parental controls are limited, even for diligent parents.

Discussion of Property Rights Related to an Individual's Image

Co-Chair Mays Bledsoe discussed 2025 RS SB 7 and philosophical differences involved in owning one's image and likeness. She explained the right of publicity is not a federal right but a creation of state law. Some states have specific publicity laws that treat identity as a property right.

Senator Williams discussed the concept of taxing and a retail exchange when people sell your image. He believes people should be compensated for the sale of their image and state taxes should be applicable.

Co-Chair Mays Bledsoe discussed the federal government's Take It Down Act, which criminalizes the nonconsensual publication of intimate images, including "digital forgeries",

in certain circumstances. It also requires certain websites and online or mobile applications, to implement a "notice-and-removal" process to remove such images at the individual's request. She encouraged committee members to read and familiarize themselves with 2025 RS SB 7.

Senator Thomas said AI should be subject to the same copyright laws as other images.

Adjournment

Chair Bray encouraged the members to send in their task force recommendations by the end of the month. Staff will email the recommendations to committee members for review and input. The goal is to vote on the task force recommendations at the last meeting on November 13, 2025.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.