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April 6, 2026

The Honorable James Maroney
Deputy Majority Leader
Connecticut State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 3500
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Maroney:

Thank you for your focus on AI. We agree this technology is critical to our national economic health and even physical health. I am sure we also agree that the US should lead on AI and that we need guardrails in place to protect Americans and clarify standards for emerging AI entrepreneurs. In this spirit we ask you to consider amending SB 5 to align with emerging national standards, be more specific in its scope, and help our nation avoid a fragmented state-by-state AI regime that risks slowing innovation and investment in the U.S. and certainly in Connecticut.

We share your goal of advancing the safe and beneficial development of AI. Connecticut residents now use AI to grow small businesses, improve healthcare, and simplify daily life. This legislation should preserve and expand those benefits; we are concerned that even with the best of intentions it will unintentionally constrain them.

SB 5 addresses a wide range of issues, from catastrophic risk in foundation models to employment-related uses of AI. Many of these issues need a national framework. CTA is actively working with Congress to advance clear, risk-based federal rules that protect consumers while enabling innovation. California and New York have already enacted model-level AI laws. We respectfully ask you to evaluate how those frameworks perform before adding a Connecticut layer. A patchwork of state laws raises compliance costs, hurts start-ups and smaller companies, creates legal uncertainty, and weakens U.S. leadership in AI.

Your bill can also be stronger with some drafting enhancements. It defines “artificial intelligence system” differently across sections and introduces terms that diverge from widely used and accepted standards. We ask that Connecticut, like other states, align its definitions with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) AI Risk Management Framework. Creating new definitions outside that framework risks confusing regulators and businesses and could even discourage new services from being offered in Connecticut.

The bill also is different than any other AI state law as it adds an “operator” category which would further and uniquely burden businesses seeking to serve Connecticut citizens. We believe AI legislation is most effective if it focuses obligations on developers and deployers, consistent with other state and federal approaches.

The proposed legislation also does not clearly assign responsibility across the AI value chain. Companies that build foundational technologies often lack visibility into downstream use. Without clear role-based obligations tied to actual control, the bill places responsibility on entities that cannot realistically meet those requirements.

We also recommend narrowing the AI companion provisions. As drafted, they are broad enough to capture common tools such as customer service chatbots, productivity applications, voice assistants, and educational technologies. The bill would be most effective by focusing on systems designed to form ongoing emotional relationships and explicitly exclude business tools, standard assistant functions, and instructional uses.

Finally, the health data provisions should align with established federal standards governing de-identified data. Strong safeguards matter, but misalignment risks disrupting legitimate, customarily accepted and important medical research and innovation which already depend on responsible data use.

We appreciate your intent and efforts and respectfully suggest you work with the Governor, local businesses, and national AI leaders to develop targeted, effective policy. We are eager to help, and we stand ready to work with you in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Gary Shapiro
CEO and Executive Chair
Consumer Technology Association



Kinsey Fabrizio
President
Consumer Technology Association