

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Yvette Clarke
Hearing on “Innovation with Integrity: Examining the Risks and Benefits of AI Chatbots”
November 18, 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to our witnesses.

It’s hard to believe how popular chatbots like ChatGPT have become in such a short period of time. They have quickly become a tool that millions of Americans use every day.

There are certainly benefits to these AI tools. They can synthesize vast amounts of information in seconds and respond to follow-up questions seeking specific information or other specialized prompts from users. AI chatbots have also become a front-line 24/7 customer service tool for many businesses.

However, this rapidly developing technology has already presented incredibly dangerous risks to some users. I have been warning of the dangers of unchecked AI for some time now and we must do more to counter these risks in Congress.

In September, I introduced my bill, the Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2025, to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in critical decision making in housing, employment, and education. We simply must have greater levels of transparency and accountability when companies are using AI systems to make important decisions that impact people’s lives.

As I’ve said before, innovation should not have to be stifled to ensure safety, inclusion, and equity are truly priorities in the decisions that affect Americans’ lives the most.

While I’ve long been concerned about the dangers of misinformation and disinformation that easily arise from the use of artificial intelligence, chatbots using generative AI raise my concerns to a whole new level.

Several companies have developed applications that allow a user to communicate in what feels like a natural conversation. These so-called “companion bots” are especially prone to serious risks and harms. In the past few years, we are seeing that users, especially younger users, are finding themselves growing dependent on these bots and even struggling with differentiating between real human relationships and what they perceive to have with the chatbot.

A new term has been coined, “AI psychosis,” which describes when a user’s interactions with a chatbot lead to distorted beliefs or even delusions. As we’ve seen in some absolutely tragic cases, users experiencing mental health crises have even taken their own lives after extensive communication with these chatbots.

My heart goes out to the families who are coping with these terrible losses, and we owe it to them to keep examining what went wrong and how this might be prevented in the future.

We need answers and we need far more data on the safety of these apps. As a member of last year's House Bipartisan Task Force on AI, I welcome efforts to make sure AI is safe, secure, and trustworthy. We need to fully fund and support our federal agencies with oversight and enforcement authority and we must refuse to simply take companies at their word that they are protecting their users.

So far, this Administration has prioritized protecting the interests of the President's billionaire tech buddies, and I fear much needed progress in this area will be delayed, at least at the executive level.

But I hope that at least here in Congress we can work together, and today's bipartisan hearing is a step in the right direction. I'm hopeful that we can chart a path forward that protects users of AI without compromising innovation. There is far too much at stake to let Big Tech fly down this path at full speed with no guardrails.

I look forward to hearing the perspectives of our highly credentialed, expert panel and how we can move forward with integrity and safety.

I yield back.