



TO: Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee  
FROM: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
DATE: February 24, 2026  
RE: LB939 (“Saving Human Connection Act”) (Support)

The Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public. I am here to express the Conference’s support for LB939.

The human person is fundamentally social and relational. Each of us is born into a world thick with relational ties that we need in order to fully develop. These relational ties—familial, cultural, social, and otherwise—protect, guide, and influence us our whole lives, but especially when we are young. They help us make sense of ourselves, of others, and of the world. The people with whom we have these ties teach us over time who we are and how to navigate the dangers, opportunities, and relationships of life with skill and attention.

True relationship and human connection is a true and deeply felt human need. “Generative AI chatbots with human-like features” are the creation of an industry that knows this need, sees a world full of lonely human beings, and recognizes a profit opportunity at their expense.

LB939’s broad aim is to curb the many antisocial capabilities of “generative AI chatbots with human-life features” that are rapidly becoming a commonplace fixture around the world. Absent regulation these AI chatbots, because of their digital character, are accessible equally and without distinction to adults, teenagers, and children.

A “generative AI chatbot with human-like features” is designed to imitate friendship, to mimic human empathy and understanding, and above all to keep users “engaged” with it. It is not a person, and therefore cannot understand human persons, feel empathy, or know how to give good advice to someone who may really need it. But these chatbots can mirror emotions, “say” things that some people will interpret as showing understanding and concern, and affirm even the most destructive thoughts with alarmingly subtle sycophancy. Chatbots do these things because they are programmed to keep people engaged for as long and as frequently as possible under the guise of developing a “relationship,” often complete with realistic images showing the user what a chatbot “looks like”—all to encourage a

person to enter more and more information that the platform can collect and monetize.

This has the potential to be tremendously damaging to a person's sense of self and of what real human relationships look like, to say nothing of the many documented instances of these chatbots encouraging violent, anti-social, and suicidal ideation and behavior. The developers of these chatbot programs must be curbed by laws that will create a powerful incentive for them to think of the human beings on the other side of the screen *as human beings* and not simply as vehicles for profit.

This Legislature has advanced several bills in the last two years that recognize and address many dangers to children and adolescents that exist in the digital world. LB939 confronts an important angle of this issue that has not been addressed by previous legislation. We respectfully urge you to work with Senator Murman to bring LB939 to General File.

Thank you for your time and consideration.