

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Sneh Vaswani

Chief Executive Officer

Miko, Inc.

Pleasanton, CA 94588

Dear Mr. Vaswani,

We write today to seek clarification and additional information regarding the questions we posed on December 16, 2025. As a toy manufacturer, the safety of children must be your highest priority. Toys powered by artificial intelligence raise serious concerns about the data privacy and security of American families, particularly when those products are designed for use by children. These technologies may enable the collection, retention, and monetization of sensitive data from children and their families, raising troubling questions about data mining practices and the use of that information. Children lack the ability to understand or consent to how their data may be stored, shared, or ultimately used without their knowledge. The risks are further exacerbated with chatbot features capable of generating inappropriate, manipulative, or emotionally coercive messages, particularly when those systems encourage prolonged engagement or make it difficult for children to disengage.

Based on your responses, the staff of our offices conducted cybersecurity testing of a Miko 3 robot through a network capture of its communications with Miko, Inc. services. On that preliminary testing, we found that Miko, Inc. had left accessible to the public what appears to be all of the audio responses of the toy, providing anyone the ability to download Miko's portion of thousands – if not tens of thousands – of discussions with children going back to December 2025. This basic cybersecurity lapse, and the toys' frequent communications back to Miko, Inc., call into question whether your company adequately protects the privacy and security of children's and the toy's data, and whether it engages in the data minimization practices promised in its response to our letter.

Please respond to the following questions no later than February 25, 2026:

1. Why did Miko, Inc. fail to protect the audio responses to children’s discussions, and what assessment has been taken to review how it collects and protects all data involved in the Miko toy?
2. Miko appears to call back to Miko, Inc. services with a high frequency. Please provide an accurate example session based on a real toy of the network communications of a Miko device, after the termination of transport encryption, and API documentation that would reflect what data is sent back to Miko, Inc. from toys currently on the market.
3. Miko Inc. cites the kidSAFE certification program in its response to our questions about COPPA compliance. What testing did kidSAFE do of Miko’s devices prior to certification?
4. With what specific third-party companies or entities do you share the data collected by your products, and for what purposes is the data shared?
5. Which specific AI model or models do your products use?
6. Your privacy policy says you may collect data on users’ “emotional states.” What specific data are you referring to here, and how are you using it?
7. Your privacy policy says that you may store biometric data for up to “three years from the last date you accessed our product.” Why do you hold onto this data for so long?
8. Your website says that “over a three-month period, kids who actively used Miko experienced: 55%+ in speaking proficiency, 46%+ in physical activity,” and “55%+ engagement with academic activities.” Are these numbers linked to a specific study?
9. You mention in your letter that Miko has “parental tools that allow caregivers to set time limits” on Miko use. However, Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) found in their report that these parental controls did not allow parents to set usage limits on the Miko robot itself (only a companion smartphone app) and gave parents misleading information about how much a child was using the device.¹ Do you plan to rectify these issues?
10. You say in your letter that “Miko robots recognize explicit stop commands and session termination cues.” However, PIRG found that in some instances, Miko would express disappointment when a user said they had to leave, including by physically shaking. What steps have you taken to address this?

¹ Cross, R. J., & Erlich, R. (2025). *AI comes to playtime: Artificial companions, real risks*. U.S. PIRG Education Fund. <https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/AI-Comes-to-Playtime-Artificial-companions-real-risks.pdf>

11. If parents request that their children's data be deleted, what specific steps do you take to ensure that the data collected by the product is permanently and irreversibly disposed of, including from backups, logs, and any third-party systems?

Thank you for your continued engagement on this matter.

Sincerely,

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator