

October 17, 2023

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

The undersigned organizations are deeply concerned about the risks that artificial intelligence (AI) and other automated decision-making systems pose to the well-being and rights of the American people. We welcome the intense attention that Congress is placing on these issues, and the inclusion of some key civil society representatives in the first Senate AI Insight Forum that took place on September 13th.

As Congress continues its examination of the opportunities and risks presented by AI, we urge legislators to consider the varied ways in which AI is already impacting our economy and society, particularly historically marginalized communities. We ask you to work closely with civil society to pursue legislation that achieves meaningful, rights-respecting AI accountability.

The risks posed by AI are not theoretical. AI already affects people's access to economic opportunities and our civil rights and civil liberties. Time and again, AI tools that promise efficiency turn out to be inaccurate and biased, denying people the right to build their futures. Screening tools used by companies to streamline hiring, for example, have created barriers to employment for people with disabilities, women, older people, and people of color. Inaccuracies or poor design in AI systems can obstruct people's access to sorely needed public benefits. The easy creation of manipulated video and audio is fueling consumer fraud and extortion schemes and raises critical questions for the election-related information environment and public discourse. AI used in high-stakes decisions by law enforcement, immigration, and national security agencies can trample people's civil rights and civil liberties: Americans have been arrested and incarcerated because police facial recognition systems made a wrong match, the overwhelming majority of them Black Americans. Generative AI tools can supplant the demand for creative work, threatening creators' livelihoods. Meanwhile, the enormous energy and water requirements associated with large language models threaten efforts to combat climate change, while the unchecked use of Americans' information to build these models threatens our privacy and the freedoms of speech and association.

For the United States to be a true global leader in AI, it must lead in responsible, rights-respecting innovation that directly addresses these myriad harms. We hope and expect that future AI Insight Forums, Congressional hearings, and legislation will center these issues and draw on the expertise of civil society and the communities most impacted by these technologies.

As public interest organizations dedicated to serving the interests of consumers, workers, families, voters, and the broader public, we stand ready to work with you to ensure that Congress's AI efforts meet the needs of our society.

Sincerely,

AAPI New Jersey

Access Now

Advocacy for Principled Action in Government

Algorithmic Justice League

American Civil Liberties Union

Amnesty International USA

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

Authors Guild

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Black Women's Roundtable

Brennan Center for Justice

Center for American Progress

Center for Democracy & Technology

Center for Digital Democracy

Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law

Center on Race and Digital Justice

Center on Race, Inequality, & the Law at NYU School of Law

The Civic Tech Field Guide

Color of Change

Common Sense Media

Communications Workers of America

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Reports

Data & Society

Defending Rights & Dissent

Demand Progress

The Digital Democracy Project

Electronic Frontier Foundation

Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)

Fair Count Inc

Fairplay

Fight for the Future

Free Government Information (FGI)

Free Press Action

Global Cyber Alliance

Global Project Against Hate and Extremism

Government Information Watch

The Greenlining Institute

HTTP// (Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership)

Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights Watch
Kapoor Center
Knight First Amendment Institute at
Columbia University
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under
Law
The Leadership Conference on Civil and
Human Rights
Media Alliance
Media in the Public Interest
MediaJustice
Mijente
MomsRising
Muslim Advocates
NAACP
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational
Fund, Inc.
National Action Network
National Association of Consumer
Advocates
National Association of Criminal Defense
Lawyers
National Black Worker Center
National Coalition on Black Civic
Participation
National Consumers League
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network
(NDRN)
National Employment Law Project
National Health Law Program
National Organization for Women
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
New America Public Interest Technology
New America's Open Technology Institute
Oakland Privacy
PEN America
People For the American Way
Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at
Cardozo
Policing Project
Project On Government Oversight
Public Citizen
Public Knowledge
Restore The Fourth
SPLC Action Fund
Surveillance Resistance Lab
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
TechEquity Collaborative
UnidosUS
Upturn
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Woodhull Freedom Foundation

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