

September 26, 2024

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries,

We write to urge you to pass H.R. 5077, the *Creating Resources for Every American To Experiment with Artificial Intelligence Act*, or *CREATE AI Act*, before the close of the 118th Congress. The *CREATE AI Act* establishes the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) as a shared national research infrastructure that provides AI researchers and students from diverse backgrounds with greater access to complex resources, data, and tools needed to develop safe and trustworthy artificial intelligence.

Our organizations urge you to pass this important measure as a standalone or include it in any must-pass legislation before the end of the 118th Congress. The *CREATE AI Act* has broad bipartisan support, with 67 cosponsors in the House. This legislation cleared the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on September 11, 2024, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on July 31, 2024. We believe codifying the NAIRR is vital to ensure America remains the global leader in responsible AI development.

The impact of the NAIRR will be to fundamentally and positively “transform the U.S. national AI research ecosystem.”<sup>1</sup> Such a transformation is necessary to increase the competitiveness of American entrepreneurs and startups and empower smaller public universities and community colleges to provide the necessary hands-on training for students to succeed in our rapidly changing economy. These challenges primarily stem from the high cost of computing resources and limited access to high-quality data. The NAIRR addresses these barriers by providing “AI researchers and students with significantly expanded access to computational resources, high-quality data, educational tools, and user support.”<sup>2</sup>

The NAIRR pilot program is already on the path to success, showcasing its potential. From the 13 federal agencies participating and contributing their resources to this proof-of-concept initiative and 26 private and non-governmental partners lending their support, we are witnessing a strong appetite for collaborative AI research. Building on this momentum, a full-scale NAIRR program promises to significantly broaden the scope of supported research areas while prioritizing the principles of safe and responsible AI throughout. As such, we advocate for NAIRR’s codification through the *CREATE AI Act* to ensure American innovation and competitiveness in this field.

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<sup>1</sup> National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force, “Strengthening and Democratizing the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Innovation Ecosystem: An Implementation Plan for a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource,” January 2023, <https://www.ai.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/NAIRR-TF-Final-Report-2023.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

While solving for the prohibitively expensive entry costs into AI R&D is a worthy goal in its own right, it takes on increased significance considering the global competition around cutting-edge, emerging technologies. According to the IDC's 2024 Worldwide Artificial Intelligence Spending Guide, China's AI funding will surpass \$38 billion by 2027, accounting for nearly 10% of all global investment.<sup>3</sup> This is not surprising; in 2017, China released its *New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan*, in which it committed "to build first-mover advantage" in its competition with America.<sup>4</sup> However, this is about more than just AI. Indeed, China views this competition in broader terms, seeing AI as a "leapfrog development" tool.<sup>5</sup> In other words, for China to win in AI development is to win in the competition for influence on the global stage.

While America's position in this competition is strong, significant work remains to be done, and Congress' role here is critical. We cannot afford to fall behind, making it all the more important to pass the *CREATE AI Act* before the end of the 118th Congress. Authorizing and implementing the NAIRR will lower entry costs into AI, spread innovation beyond Silicon Valley, and strengthen our competitive strategy with China.

We understand that Congress has many competing priorities; however, we strongly recommend pushing passing the *CREATE AI Act* towards the top. It is a necessary step toward ensuring that America remains the world leader in AI.

Sincerely,

TechNet  
ACT | The App Association  
Americans for Responsible Innovation  
Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA)  
Center for American Entrepreneurship  
Center for Data Innovation  
Chamber of Progress  
Computing Research Association  
Engine  
Federation of American Scientists  
IEEE-USA  
Marketplace Industry Association  
SeedAI  
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)

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<sup>3</sup> "China's AI Investment to Surge," China Internet Watch, February 15, 2024, <https://www.chinainternetwatch.com/43536/ai-investment/>

<sup>4</sup> "Full Translation: China's 'New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan' (2017)," DigiChina, August 1, 2017, <https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/full-translation-chinas-new-generation-artificial-intelligence-development-plan-2017/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.