



September 11, 2024

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren:

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), I am writing to convey SIIA's support for many of the bills that the House Science, Space and Technology Committee has chosen to markup during today's session. SIIA is the principal trade association for companies in the information industry. Our membership of nearly 400 companies reflects the broad and diverse landscape of digital content providers and users in academic publishing, education technology, financial information, software, platforms, data analytics, and information services. Our members include upstream and downstream AI designers, developers, and deployers of AI systems across various environments.

We encourage the Committee to prioritize passing the following bipartisan bills, each of which we believe will enhance the nation's position as a global leader in AI:

H.R. 5077, CREATE AI Act: SIIA has long supported the CREATE AI Act and applauds the Committee for taking steps to advance this important legislation. Formalizing the NAIRR will help to build the AI infrastructure that the United States needs to maintain leadership in AI, including greater and more available compute resources and shared data sets. The NAIRR will support federal R&D efforts that will help to maintain U.S. leadership in AI innovation, standards, and applications in a way that taps into the potential beyond the largest AI companies. The CREATE AI Act will also provide Congress with meaningful oversight in shaping Executive Branch AI priorities.

H.R. 9402, NSF AI Education Act of 2024: This bill will incentivize public-private partnerships to empower students to benefit from cutting edge AI technologies. This effort will help to empower all students, not just those with means, to benefit from cutting edge technologies.

H.R. 9197, Small Business Artificial Intelligence Advancement Act: Small businesses play an important role in the AI ecosystem, which is why it is crucial to develop resources for small businesses in utilizing artificial intelligence, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9211, LIFT AI Act : Digital literacy at the K-12 level is necessary for modernizing our classrooms and developing adaptable, informed, and ethical citizens. Increasing investment in AI literacy can

broaden and enhance the capabilities of student learners nationwide, while also preparing them for success in a changing workforce.

H.R. 9215, Workforce for AI Trust Act: NIST and NSF are well-positioned to continue building on the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 in order to facilitate a workforce of trained experts to build trustworthy AI systems.

H.R. 9403, Expanding AI Voices Act: It is important that a diverse array of stakeholders are involved in AI research and development, and the technology sector has continued to embrace this. This bill will advance AI innovation by fostering partnerships and investing in higher education and other institutions to expand AI capacity in populations historically underrepresented in STEM.

AI Development Practices Act: This bill will continue to expand NIST's crucial role in AI leadership through directives to catalog and evaluate emerging practices and norms for communicating certain characteristics of artificial intelligence systems, including relating to transparency, robustness, resilience, security, safety, and usability.

AI Advancement and Reliability Act: SIIA is a proponent of expanding U.S. Leadership in AI research and development by leveraging collaboration amongst industry, government, academia, and civil society. The establishment of a Center for AI Reliability and Safety is a step towards ensuring continued United States leadership that allows for the evaluation of the robustness, resilience, and safety of artificial intelligence systems. While we support this legislation, we believe it is critical for Congress to build on authorizing legislation and provide not only guidance to the Executive Branch but also sufficient appropriations to ensure the Center can undertake critical work and lead in the emerging international AI safety network. Appropriations are needed to build or gain access to compute for testbeds and pilot projects, develop evaluative criteria and metrics for non-regulatory AI model testing, and develop collaborative partnerships with academia and industry. The United Kingdom is leading international AI safety work, in part because the UK government has invested over \$100 million to fund the UK's AI Safety Institute. Because many of the leading AI companies are based in the United States, we believe continued U.S. leadership requires investment in this space.

SIIA remains encouraged by the steps Congress is taking to position the U.S. for success as AI evolves. We look forward to continuing our engagement with Congress as these bills progress and remain dedicated to advocating for AI policies that promote innovation and safety, strengthen U.S. leadership, enhance government adoption, and foster meaningful public-private collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lekas
Senior Vice President, Head of Global Public Policy and Government Affairs
Software & Information Industry Association

