October 1, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rounds
United States Senator
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senator
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senator
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Member Briefing on AI in Education

Dear Leader Schumer and Senators Heinrich, Rounds, and Young:

On behalf of the undersigned, and in partnership with the EDSAFE AI Alliance, we appreciate your strong, bipartisan leadership and forward-looking approach to developing *Driving U.S. Innovation in Artificial Intelligence*, your roadmap for the United States Senate as it works to develop much-needed policy related to AI. The roadmap will be helpful in advancing AI governance and innovation while considering both the risks and opportunities presented by the growth of AI. We are grateful for your considerable effort to bring leading experts together through educational briefings and AI Insights Forums to begin to tackle some of the most challenging policy questions and issues that the rise of AI creates.

The EDSAFE AI Alliance works to engage stakeholders around how responsible AI can advance equitable outcomes for all learners and improve working experiences for educators through the [SAFE framework](#). However, we know that education is more than just student outcomes and teacher working conditions. It is essential to maintain our global competitiveness and economic growth, to drive opportunity and progress both individually and collectively, a key to our ability to develop the knowledge and innovations that will help address our most pressing challenges, a commitment to our children, and a cornerstone of our democracy. Because of the importance of education to our country and the unique impact the growth and use of AI will have on education, we strongly encourage you to hold an Insights Forum specifically focused on education.

As you know, the nine forums included a range of experts - more than 150 leaders in business, technology, academia, and other fields. We appreciate that the President of the American Federation of Teachers, professors and university leaders, policy directors at major corporations, and civil rights leaders were among those leaders. And, the Forums covered a range of important education-related issues, such as bias and civil rights implications of AI use, the impact of AI on workers, training and upskilling the workforce, and the need to partner with

community colleges and universities in retraining efforts. However, we believe that the voices of students, parents and educators, and the impact of AI on education in America's elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools were not sufficiently heard or considered.

An Insights Forum on education should focus on the opportunities AI could enable to improve teaching and accelerate learning, as well as address the risks to privacy, civil rights, discrimination and bias, and the potential to widen existing disparities if not appropriately governed. A Forum could also consider how to prioritize the equitable development and implementation of technologies to ensure accessibility and decrease inequalities in the education system, including for English learners, students with disabilities, and other historically marginalized groups. Such a forum should also explore what skills and knowledge students will need to learn and work with AI to succeed and thrive in an AI-powered education setting or workforce. As with other policy areas covered by the Insights Forums, such a conversation would be essential in finding areas of consensus, developing recommendations, and helping determine where further work and research is needed. To address many of these issues, we recommend including and consulting with stakeholders in K-12 and higher education and those working to protect students' civil rights, among others. We would be pleased to offer specific recommendations for leading experts and questions to help design such a forum if helpful.

Many states, school districts, institutions of higher education, and private companies are forging ahead, working to address many of the potential risks and ensure that AI is used responsibly. However, a patchwork may leave many holes, and Congress and the Federal government have an important role to play in supporting states and districts with funding, guidance, and expertise in the development and adoption of safe, secure, accessible, responsive, and responsible AI use in schools.

Again, we thank you for your bipartisan leadership and work. We look forward to working with you and other Senators to engage and contribute to developing a federal AI policy informed by education stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,

AI for Education
All4Ed
CAST
Center on Reinventing Public Education
Code.org
Committee for Children
CoSN, the Consortium for School Networking
Data Quality Campaign
Digital Promise
Education Trust
ExcelinEd in Action

Imagine Network
InnovateEDU
ISTE+ASCD
Knowledge Alliance
LearningForge LLC
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Education Association
National Parents Union
National School Boards Association
SETDA
Software & Information Industry Association
The Alliance for Learning Innovation
The International Centre for Edtech Impact
Women Leading Ed
Transcend
Zarek Drozda, Executive Director - Data Science 4 Everyone