Statement of Principles Regarding Artificial Intelligence

October 7, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations, believe the debate around artificial intelligence (AI), the most powerful technology ever built, shouldn't be limited to the opinions of Big Tech CEOs, their super PACs, and a handful of billionaires. In the richest country in the history of the world, any AI oversight legislation must be driven by the voices of working families and governed by the following principles to ensure justice and benefit to humanity.

> **Independence:** Transparent government oversight with real enforcement power is needed to determine the pace and substance of new AI models. This public oversight should not be designed by or controlled by Big Tech companies, just as we would not allow Big Pharma or Wall Street to design their own regulations.
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> **Broad mandate:** Oversight should include existential issues of human safety in addition to tackling imminent major economic shocks – as well as ensuring AI models are not making final decisions to deny people health care or benefits, fire or discipline workers, or deploy weapons.
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> **Enforce existing laws**: Current law already outlaws the deployment of products that harm the public. Those laws – including consumer protection law, computer fraud law, and statutes barring unfair and deceptive practices – should be enforced to hold companies liable that have deployed or plan to deploy products that harm the public. Additionally, Congress must not preempt states' ability to create and enforce their own AI-related legislation.
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> **Universal benefit:** The successes or failures of AI policy will not be judged by stock performance but rather impact on human beings, our communities, and the planet. Any legislation should lay out a vision for the benefit this technology can bring to humanity and the American public.

The public is demanding action on AI. Any AI regulatory legislation that fails to meet the above basic principles will not receive our support; it will be met with active, mobilized opposition. This moment requires nothing less.

Sincerely,

American Family Voices
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Americans for Financial Reform
Black Voters Matter Fund
Center for Countering Digital Hate
Center for Health and Democracy
Center for Justice & Democracy
CivicReach
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region
Consumer Action
Courage California
Demand Progress Education Fund
Economic Security Project Action
End Citizens United Action Fund
Guardrails Action
Indivisible
Indivisible Burbank Media City
Irreplaceable
Make the Road States
MPower Change Action Fund
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Black Justice Collective
National Education Association
NAVA (National Association of Voice Actors)
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
P Street
Public Citizen
Public Knowledge
Social Security Works
Sojourners
Stand.earth
TechEquity
The Action Lab
The Greenlining Institute
The Tech Oversight Project
United Auto Workers
UltraViolet Action
United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry
Who Decides