NEWS: As Congress Debates AI Policy, Guardrails Action Rallies Growing Coalition Around Red Line Demands

Bringing together civil society, progressives, labor, and AI safety groups including UAW, AFT, NEA, Who Decides, Irreplaceable, TechEquity, Public Citizen, Indivisible, P Street, Demand Progress

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7 – Amidst the accelerating, urgent, dangerous, and hugely consequential debate around AI, Guardrails Action has rallied nearly 40 groups behind a statement of principles in which any regulation, policy, or oversight legislation must be rooted to ensure this historic technology benefits humanity and not just a handful of billionaires. Announced today, these demands were outlined in a joint letter addressed to all members of Congress, across parties and legislative bodies.

"We, the undersigned organizations, believe the debate around 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," **wrote the groups.** "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…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."

These demands come as Congress is scrambling to catch up to voters on this issue and President Trump is hosting an AI meeting with executives from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, and others. It also follows a recent state dinner with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the White House where Trump welcomed a number of Big Tech executives including Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Jensen Huang, Tim Cook, Sam Altman, Greg Brockman, Satya Nadella, Sergey Brin, as well as Jamie Dimon. Of the 134 guests at the dinner, 26% were business figures – nearly half of whom are connected with tech – and 21 were billionaires. Estimates found the combined net worth of the attending tech executives surpassed $2.4 TRILLION – nearly the GDP of Canada in 2026.

"Big AI and their army of lobbyists and publicists want to divide Congress and the public on this issue," **said Shaunna Thomas, Executive Director of Guardrails Action.** "The public isn't fooled and Congress shouldn't be either. The American public is demanding guardrails to keep themselves and their families safe, accountability for the ways the technology sector has already caused harm, and leadership that puts human beings at the center of the conversation."

The letter of principles calls for: independent transparent government oversight with real enforcement power, the enforcement of existing laws, universal benefit, a mandate that addresses human impacts from safety to economic disruption, and ensuring AI models are not making final decisions such as denying people health care or benefits, firing or disciplining workers, or deploying weapons.

The growing tent of labor, AI safety, and civil society groups that came together around this list of demands, include: **American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Black Voters Matter Fund, Center for**

Countering Digital Hate, Center for Health and Democracy, Center for Justice & Democracy, Demand Progress Education Fund, Economic Security Project Action, End Citizens United, Indivisible, National Black Justice Collective, National Education Association (NEA), Progressive Change Campaign Committee, P Street, Public Citizen, Social Security Works, TechEquity, The Tech Oversight Project, United Auto Workers, UltraViolet Action.

Read the full letter HERE.

Read quotes of support from signers HERE.

Read the full public memo on Big AI's electoral strategy, released September 9 by Guardrails Action, HERE.

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