Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

The undersigned organizations are deeply concerned about the risks that artificial intelligence (AI) and other automated decision-making systems pose to the well-being and rights of the American people. We welcome the intense attention that Congress is placing on these issues, and the inclusion of some key civil society representatives in the first Senate AI Insight Forum that took place on September 13th.

As Congress continues its examination of the opportunities and risks presented by AI, we urge legislators to consider the varied ways in which AI is already impacting our economy and society, particularly historically marginalized communities. We ask you to work closely with civil society to pursue legislation that achieves meaningful, rights-respecting AI accountability.

The risks posed by AI are not theoretical. AI already affects people’s access to economic opportunities and our civil rights and civil liberties. Time and again, AI tools that promise efficiency turn out to be inaccurate and biased, denying people the right to build their futures. Screening tools used by companies to streamline hiring, for example, have created barriers to employment for people with disabilities, women, older people, and people of color. Inaccuracies or poor design in AI systems can obstruct people’s access to sorely needed public benefits. The easy creation of manipulated video and audio is fueling consumer fraud and extortion schemes and raises critical questions for the election-related information environment and public discourse. AI used in high-stakes decisions by law enforcement, immigration, and national security agencies can trample people’s civil rights and civil liberties: Americans have been arrested and incarcerated because police facial recognition systems made a wrong match, the overwhelming majority of them Black Americans. Generative AI tools can supplant the demand for creative work, threatening creators’ livelihoods. Meanwhile, the enormous energy and water requirements associated with large language models threaten efforts to combat climate change, while the unchecked use of Americans’ information to build these models threatens our privacy and the freedoms of speech and association.
For the United States to be a true global leader in AI, it must lead in responsible, rights-respecting innovation that directly addresses these myriad harms. We hope and expect that future AI Insight Forums, Congressional hearings, and legislation will center these issues and draw on the expertise of civil society and the communities most impacted by these technologies.

As public interest organizations dedicated to serving the interests of consumers, workers, families, voters, and the broader public, we stand ready to work with you to ensure that Congress’s AI efforts meet the needs of our society.

Sincerely,

AAPI New Jersey
Access Now
Advocacy for Principled Action in Government
Algorithmic Justice League
American Civil Liberties Union
Amnesty International USA
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Authors Guild
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Black Women’s Roundtable
Brennan Center for Justice
Center for American Progress
Center for Democracy & Technology
Center for Digital Democracy
Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law
Center on Race and Digital Justice
Center on Race, Inequality, & the Law at NYU School of Law
The Civic Tech Field Guide
Color of Change

Common Sense Media
Communications Workers of America
Consumer Action
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
Data & Society
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress
The Digital Democracy Project
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
Fair Count Inc
Fairplay
Fight for the Future
Free Government Information (FGI)
Free Press Action
Global Cyber Alliance
Global Project Against Hate and Extremism
Government Information Watch
The Greenlining Institute
HTTP// (Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership)
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Hon. Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
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Speaker pro tempore of the House
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

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Washington, DC 20510

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Hon. Ted Cruz
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Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Mike Crapo
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Hon. Virginia Foxx
Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee
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Hon. Robert C. Scott
Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee
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Hon. Bennie Thompson
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Hon. Frank Pallone
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Hon. Jerrold Nadler
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Hon. Frank Lucas
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