Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Ted Lieu
Co-Chair
House Democratic Commission on AI &
The Innovation Economy

The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
Co-Chair
House Democratic Commission on AI &
The Innovation Economy

The Honorable Valerie Foushee
Co-Chair
House Democratic Commission on AI &
The Innovation Economy

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ex Officio Co-Chair
House Democratic Commission on AI &
The Innovation Economy

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ex Officio Co-Chair
House Democratic Commission on AI &
The Innovation Economy

Dear Commission Co-Chairs:

We are writing regarding the recent formation of the House Democratic Commission on Artificial Intelligence (AI). As the Commission develops a policy framework for regulation and innovation in AI, we urge the Commission to promote guardrails that empower workers and their families and to oppose federal preemption of state AI laws, a brazen attempt to silence local voices seeking a balanced approach to tech regulation.

AI and other emerging technologies hold the potential for safer workplaces where AI and other advances complement workers, boost productivity, and lay the groundwork for greater shared prosperity. But this vision can only be realized when two key conditions are met: First, workers must be able to form a union free from intimidation or retaliation to have a seat at the table when decisions about development and deployment are made. Second, there must be a legal and regulatory framework that ensures AI is developed and deployed responsibly, safely, and fairly. This will help prevent the degradation and displacement of work while building a durable foundation for sustained and responsible innovation.

As the champions of working families, Democrats must take an active leadership role putting in place the AI guardrails the American public needs and demands. At the heart of our policy must be efforts to strengthen labor rights and workers' access to collective bargaining to prevent the use of AI as a weapon to undermine worker power. We must also center workers throughout the process from AI research and development, to the development and implementation of workforce training programs, to the responsible end use of AI. A strong and robust AI policy framework must consider AI's impact on workers. It is imperative that the Commission's recommendations include workers' perspectives. As such, we urge the Commission to include representation from labor in any panels, convenings, or other efforts to solicit input and provide their perspective on immediate and downstream impacts stemming from the implementation of AI in the workplace. We also strongly recommend the Commission encourage frequent participation and consultation with membership of the Congressional Labor Caucus to ensure worker voices are central to the Commission's important

work. These Members of Congress have not only participated in numerous hearings on building an AI-ready workforce, but also champion policy matters related to workers' employment, health and safety, and civil rights and equal employment opportunity laws.

Protecting workers must be a central tenet of developing federal AI policies. Which is why, at this critical moment, Democrats must present a unified and coherent vision for innovation that uplifts workers and does not capitulate to industry efforts to pass light-touch regulation. As such, a comprehensive approach must also include transparency and accountability for AI use, strong restrictions to support copyright and intellectual property protections, clear protections against harmful applications of AI in the workplace, and prohibitions on uses that infringe on civil rights and undermine the integrity of our democracy. Further, we must leverage the purchasing power of the federal government to model responsible AI use that adheres to these principles.
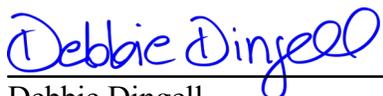
Finally, the Commission must stake out a clear position in opposition to the federal preemption of state AI regulations. In the absence of federal action, states have been moving to curb AI abuses, empower workers, and promote sustainable, responsible innovation. We must support these efforts and cannot leave Big Tech to self-regulate.

Not only are these policies the right approach, they are incredibly popular among our constituents. Poll after poll show Americans are deeply concerned about the prospect of unsafe, unethical or unregulated AI use. Eighty percent of voters support AI regulation,[1] even if it means slower deployment, and fully 2/3 of voters believe AI will eliminate more jobs than it creates.[2] Voters are also concerned about specific uses of AI, with strong majorities expressing discomfort with AI tools being used to screen health care claims (71%), screen bank loan applications (67%) and screen job applications (64%).[3]
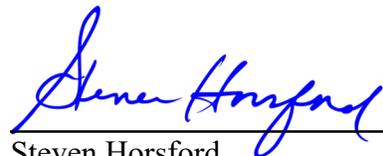
As Democrats, we must show that we are working hard to stand up for Americans who believe AI must be used responsibly to strengthen our economy, empower workers and improve the quality of life in our communities, not undermine good jobs, degrade the quality of our services, and erode our democracy.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus

Steven Horsford
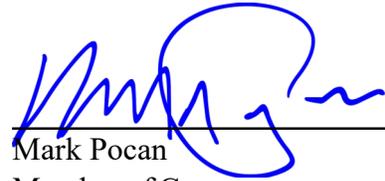Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus

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[1] Gallup, Americans Prioritize AI Safety and Data Security: Majorities Favor Maintaining Rules for AI, Independent Testing and Collaborating with Allies (Sept. 17, 2025), https://news.gallup.com/poll/694685/americans-prioritize-safety-data-security.aspx.

[2] Marist Poll, AI Use, September 2025: About Two-Thirds Think AI Will Eliminate More Jobs Than It Creates (Sept. 10, 2025), https://maristpoll.marist.edu/polls/ai-use-september-2025/.

[3] Quinnipiac Univ. Poll, The Age Of Artificial Intelligence: Americans Wary Of Impact On Daily Life, See Harm To Education, Benefits To Medical Advances (Apr. 16, 2025), https://poll.qu.edu/poll-release?releaseid=3923.

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus

CC: Leader Jeffries