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United States Senate

Dear [redacted]

I share your concern for the rapid growth and expansion of artificial intelligence (A.I.). As A.I. becomes increasingly important and influential in all parts of our economy and society, it is clear that our current regulatory and oversight frameworks have not kept pace with the evolving technology. I am currently working with several of my colleagues on a legislative pathway forward that both tends to the risks—many of which are not yet known—and does not stifle valuable innovation and implementation of A.I., especially in lower-risk contexts. I am thankful for the opportunity to share some of my initial thinking on this issue as I continue to build consensus solutions.

One area that I am particularly concerned about is the ability of A.I. to swiftly and easily generate content—images, video, or audio—that looks real but is demonstrably false. We have already seen several examples that have resulted in real-life harm, such as the 2019 example of U.K. energy company losing hundreds of thousands of dollars when hackers used an A.I.-based software to impersonate their CEO. Similarly, in the realm of politics, I worry about the growing likelihood that someone could create a fictional video of any politician, saying things that have no bearing on who they are or what they believe but, given the improving technological capabilities, will look entirely real. They could then use social media to disseminate this misinformation at a pace and scale that is incredibly hard, if not impossible, to rebut.

To address this concern, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 includes legislation I authored, directing the Department of Defense to conduct a competition between the private sector and DoD to drive research to improve labeling and detection capabilities for generative A.I. This competition not only addresses the importance of informing users that they are interacting with A.I. generated content but also recognizes the need for increasing research and development into detection software.

I also share your concerns about the cybersecurity risks to A.I. interfaces. My time as co-chair of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission has seen our country shore up defense against cyberattacks of significant consequence and has recommended policies and legislation to implement that strategic approach. The commission agreed on a new strategy for cybersecurity: layered cyber deterrence. This approach would use all national instruments of power, commit to strengthening critical infrastructure defenses, clarify cyber responsibilities in government, promote an explicit deterrence doctrine, and expand public-private partnerships to protect American interests in cyberspace. Additionally, this strategy would reduce the likelihood and impact of significant cyberattacks.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senate Select Intelligence Committee, I will continue to work with my colleagues to evaluate the effects of A.I. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me on these issues; please be in touch if I can be of service.

Best Regards,

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator