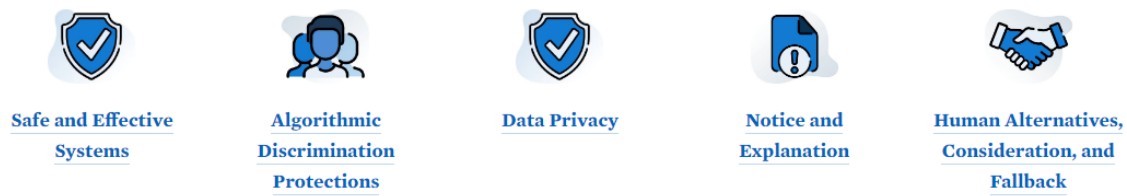Jason Zenarosa

Balancing Innovation and Accountability: The Need for Stricter Regulation of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly emerged as a technology that is shaping and transforming various aspects of our lives. AI has the potential to bring unprecedented benefits to society, and it continues to be integrated in almost every industry. However, as AI becomes more widespread, concerns have also emerged about its potential negative impact. For example, the use of AI by government bodies such as the police and border control disproportionately affects marginalized groups such as people of color and undocumented immigrants. Additionally, it can be used to spread disinformation or impersonate people without their consent through the use of deepfakes. The purpose of this essay is to argue that there is a lack of regulation for AI technology in the US and to propose solutions to this issue. Although it could be argued that creating legislation with the purpose of regulating AI will only serve to hinder the advancement and innovation of this emerging technology, AI must be regulated more strictly in order to ensure that it cannot be used to perpetuate societal biases, spread disinformation, or be used for impersonation/identity theft.

Presently, there is a lack of federal legislation regulating Artificial Intelligence in the US. However, as AI technology rapidly develops, there is increased pressure on governmental agencies to create legislation with the purpose of protecting people from the potential harms associated with AI. This has led to some efforts by the federal government to rectify this issue, such as the National AI Initiative, the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, and the Algorithmic Accountability Act.

According to their official website, the National AI Initiative is a US government-led effort established by the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 to ensure continued US leadership in AI R&D, lead the world in the development of trustworthy AI systems, prepare the present and future workforce for AI integration across all sectors of the economy, and coordinate ongoing AI activities across all Federal agencies (National AI Initiative). The Initiative is organized into six strategic pillars, including Innovation, Advancing Trustworthy AI, Education and Training, Infrastructure, Applications, and International Cooperation (National AI Initiative). Out of these pillars, the one most focused on upholding the safety and security of the American public is Advancing Trustworthy AI. Several sectors of government, including the Food and Drug Administration, Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have issued guidelines on safe and ethical AI usage (National AI Initiative). These guidelines are useful resources for companies and organizations that want to start using AI, but they don't actually take action against harmful or malicious misuse of AI. Overall, the National AI Initiative is a step in the right direction, it doesn't actually do anything to ensure that AI cannot be misused against people.

The Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights is a document published by the White House in October 2022, outlining the federal government's guidelines for creating AI system's with the safety of the American public in mind.

The Five Principles of the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights (The White House).

According to the White House's official website, the Blueprint serves as "a handbook for anyone seeking to incorporate these protections into policy and practice" (The White House). Again, the Blueprint is a step in the right direction, it doesn't actually propose any specific solutions to the issues currently being caused by AI.

Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the Algorithmic Accountability Act

By comparison, other countries have significantly more developed legislation than the US when it comes to AI regulation. China, for example, ***continue***

Discuss what legislation should be made

Discuss counterargument

In conclusion, the regulation of AI is a necessary step towards ensuring that this powerful technology is used ethically and for the greater good. While some argue that regulation will stifle innovation, it is important to acknowledge the potential harms that unregulated AI can cause, such as perpetuating societal biases, spreading disinformation, and facilitating identity theft. The current legislative landscape varies widely between different countries and the effectiveness of existing regulation is questionable. The proposed solutions, such as the White House's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, provide useful guidelines but lack specific measures for enforcement. To be effective, AI regulation should include measures such as outlawing deepfakes without consent, ensuring transparency in sourcing of datasets, and accountability for algorithmic

decision-making. While it is true that regulation may slow down innovation, it is important to remember that the potential risks of unregulated AI far outweigh any temporary delays in technological advancement. Ultimately, striking a balance between innovation and accountability is necessary to ensure that AI serves humanity in the safest and most effective way.