Based on the experiences I had and the process I underwent to save my life, I feel as if I am more qualified to speak on this issue. Robotic enhancement to humans to enable an easier life or (in my case) save their life is relatively acceptable, but doing the opposite by adding human qualities to artificial intelligence is highly controversial. The ethical uncertainty of implementing the ability to understand human empathy and emotional capacity into robots, if not resolved soon, could cause mass chaos and dissent through the United States and eventually the world.

Programming artificial intelligence to understand series of numbers and reacting to deadly situations with destruction is simple enough because there is no deep contemplation involved. To understand emotional reactions completely, robots must experience them to some extent. When my dopamine levels were lowered manually, I was able to identify my family’s distress, but I could not empathize. The same could apply to artificial intelligence, but then that also leads to the question of whether or not robots should be given emotions. An emotion is a neurological combination of chemicals that can bring humans to harrowing heights or suffocating lows; there is no way to program that into a machine with codes and numbers. Even if there is, it should not be used. If robots are given emotions, then they can be controlled, turned on and off to someone’s liking.

As a cop, I have no personal bias against robots being able to use facial recognition to identify and arrest known criminals as mentioned in the article, but the brute find and capture method of these machines is not all that cops are. Police, emergency medical responders, and firefighters are all trained to keep a situation under control, but there is also a need to provide emotional support to those that witnessed a traumatic event. I myself have a son, and I know that if he had to witness anything else traumatic in his life, I would want any police or emergency service to give him the support that my wife and I would give. Robots can recognize the signs of emotions, but I am fairly positive that I speak for everyone when I say that we all would want a person with a beating heart and a conscience to comfort distressed individuals rather than a cold metal exterior and a computer for a brain. The best way to empathize with a victim of trauma is to have had a similar incident and have similar emotions running through their head, which is the case for most mental health professionals. Understanding the complexity of human emotional reaction cannot be programmed into a robot’s processor; neurochemical reactions and changes in the overall psyche of a human is one of the most unique processes in living organisms, artificially recreating it would be a sin to humanity.

It is in human nature to be flawed, so it is to be expected that our flaws will carry over to our creations as well. Allowing robots the ability to comprehend emotions in itself is full of risks and turmoil. The reality of artificial intelligence is that even with physical capabilities that far surpass a human’s, robots will and should never be granted emotions, and their understanding should be cautioned and closely monitored.