Introduction

What do you see when you look at AI? **Innovation. Efficiency. Improvement.** But **beneath the surface**—what's hidden? What **don't you see**? Bias. Opaqueness. Unaccountability.

Problem Statement

AI models are **shaping our world**, yet we remain **blind** to the forces shaping **them**. Companies train these systems in **secrecy, omitting** the sources of their data. Users interact with AI **every day**, unaware of the **biases** embedded within.

Take **Apple's Facial Recognition AI**, for example. An Asian woman in Shanghai had her phone locked. She handed it to her coworker so they could check the time, but to her **shock**, her coworker was able to **log into her phone** with facial recognition. Exposing **her private messages**, **her private data**, **her private life**. There was a **bias** in the training of Apple's facial recognition that negatively affected **Asian people**.

But that's **not the only issue**. Who decides what an AI deems **acceptable**? Who validates its **fairness**? And more importantly, who holds them **accountable**?

Take **Gemini**, Google's AI. When asked for an image of a Viking, it provided a **black Viking**—historically inaccurate. When asked for Pope Francis, it depicted him as an **Asian woman**—historically inaccurate. When asked for George Washington, it made him **Black**—historically inaccurate.

These errors are **not just technical glitches**, they are **not just hallucinations**; they reveal **deeper issues** with training data, **bias**, and the **opaque decision-making processes** that define AI systems today.

The lack of transparency isn't just a technical flaw; it's a **societal risk**. It **erodes trust**. It **reinforces biases**. It **threatens ethical decision-making**.

Cause

Why does this happen? Because **regulations don't demand otherwise**. There are almost **no legal requirements** forcing companies to disclose the data used to train AI models. Only **some** of the major tech hubs in the United States have started forming legislation—California, New York, Texas.

As a growing tech hub, as the home to **Microsoft**, as the home to **Amazon**, Seattle, we **must take action**. Without regulation, AI will continue to develop in **secrecy**, **unchecked** and **unquestioned**. The lack of transparency leaves consumers vulnerable to **biased decision-making, discrimination,** and **misinformation.**

A black box system remains a **black box**—opaque, unchecked, unquestioned.

Solution: House Bill 1168

Enter **Washington State House Bill 1168**. A step towards **clarity**. A step towards **accountability**. A step towards **trust**. This bill **demands** companies to **document and disclose the data** that informs their AI systems.

Going back to the Apple example, if Apple had released some **data** about the people they used to train their Facial Recognition, people would have **noticed** the issue. **A limited number of Asian faces.** The **bias** in their model would have been **easier to spot** and **faster to correct.**

Users, like you and me, **deserve** to understand the foundation upon which AI decisions rest.

Call to Action

Change begins with **action**.

Contact Your Representatives – **Call, email,** or **write** to Washington State lawmakers. Advocate for House Bill 1168. **Demand transparency in AI development**.

Engage with Advocacy Groups – Join local organizations like the Seattle AI Society, the Tech Equity Coalition, or the Communication Technology Advisory Board. **Attend their meetings, sign their petitions, amplify their message.**

Stay Informed and Support Ethical AI – Follow AI legislation. Educate yourself on how AI systems operate. Support companies that **commit to transparency** and **ethical AI practices.**

Conclusion

AI will continue to evolve, shaping industries, shaping lives, shaping futures. But **we have a choice**: to let it grow **unchecked** or to **demand accountability**. Transparency is not an option—**it's a necessity**. It's time to open the **black box**. It's time to see AI for what it **truly** is. It's **time to act**.

Because in the end, AI isn't just about **algorithms**—it's about **impact**. It's about **fairness**, it's about **ethics**, it's about ensuring that our knowledge benefits **everyone**, not just a **few**.

Because Knowledge isn't just **power**—it's **responsibility**.