

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC, 205102

Dear Chair Cassidy:

As Congress continues to assess strategies for mitigating the risks and harms associated with emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), we write to you in support of the AI Whistleblower Protection Act.

AI is already reshaping society, national defense capabilities, and global industries. With this rapid transformation comes the increasing potential for misuse, ethical lapses, and unintended consequences that could negatively impact the public on a large scale. Ensuring transparency and accountability in this field is not only a matter of public interest—it is a national security imperative.

Employees and industry insiders—rather than regulators—have consistently been among the first to warn about risks of the technologies they're building. In Silicon Valley, engineers have exposed powerful AI models released without proper safeguards, former staff have surfaced data on youth digital harms, and researchers have stepped forward when serious risks were ignored. Their disclosures—often about conduct that was dangerous but not yet illegal—gave the public and policymakers the evidence needed to act.

However, in the absence of strong legal safeguards, these individuals may be deterred from reporting issues due to fear of retaliation or professional repercussions. In June 2024, over a dozen current and former employees from leading AI companies, including OpenAI and Google DeepMind, explicitly stated publicly that confidentiality agreements and fear of retaliation prevented them from raising legitimate safety concerns.¹ This chilling effect silences critical voices, erodes public trust, and undermines both technological integrity and national resilience.

Congress has the opportunity to protect individuals who come forward in good faith and to reinforce the principle that safety, ethics, and accountability must accompany innovation. Whistleblowers serve a valuable and necessary role in Congressional oversight, and in an age where AI systems influence everything from elections to defense systems, their protections are more urgent than ever.

The AI Whistleblower Protection Act helps ensure that those working to develop and deploy AI systems are not punished for acting in the best interest of the public. Strong whistleblower protections are a cornerstone of responsible governance and essential to guiding AI development in a way that upholds our shared democratic values.

¹ "A Right to Warn about Advanced Artificial Intelligence." Right to Warn, <https://righttowarn.ai/>.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and respectfully urge you to prioritize the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Americans for Responsible Innovation
Center for Democracy & Technology
Center for Humane Technology
Center for Youth and AI
CoFund
Demand Progress
Design It For Us Coalition
Encode AI
Government Accountability Project
National Consumers League
National Decency Coalition
National Employment Law Project
National Whistleblower Center
NoSo November
Psst.org
Public Knowledge
Secure AI Project
The Anti-Fraud Coalition
The Tech Oversight Project
The Signals Network
Working Partnerships USA
Young People's Alliance

Cc:

The Honorable Chris Coons
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Josh Hawley
381 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Lieu
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
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