

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 9, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

I write to urge Senate leadership to support the establishment of a bipartisan Senate Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence at the beginning of the next Congress. The committee should be charged with examining the opportunities and risks presented by increasingly capable artificial intelligence systems, coordinating congressional oversight across jurisdictions, and developing recommendations for a coherent federal approach to AI. A dedicated, bipartisan committee with the staff, authorities, and access to classified and technical briefings necessary to conduct sustained oversight is the response this moment requires.

AI is likely to be one of the most transformative technologies in human history. It has already accelerated drug discovery¹, expanded access to expert-level knowledge across numerous different fields, and improved productivity across industries, with one leading estimate suggesting the technology could raise global GDP by as much as 7 percent or nearly \$7 trillion over a ten-year period.² But the same technology also presents serious and rapidly evolving challenges to our workforce, national security, elections, privacy, critical infrastructure, children, and the safety of the public.

Most recently, an Anthropic researcher who previously worked at OpenAI resigned from the AI industry, warning about a race to develop increasingly powerful and potentially uncontrollable systems and arguing that government intervention may ultimately be necessary.³ His concerns are not isolated. Leading AI researchers have warned that increasingly autonomous systems

¹ Ali Azhar, Google DeepMind's New AlphaFold Model Poised to Revolutionize Drug Discovery, HPCwire (May 14, 2024), <https://www.hpcwire.com/aiwire/2024/05/14/google-deepminds-new-alphafold-model-poised-to-revolutionize-drug-discovery/>.

² Joseph Briggs & Devesh Kodnani, Generative AI Could Raise Global GDP by 7%, Goldman Sachs (Apr. 5, 2023), <https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/articles/generative-ai-could-raise-global-gdp-by-7-percent>.

³ *Wall Street Journal*, "Anthropic Researcher Quits Over 'Out of Control' AI Fears," <https://www.wsj.com/tech/ai/anthropic-researcher-quits-over-out-of-control-ai-fears-707b7628>

could create risks ranging from large-scale misuse to circumstances in which humans have difficulty maintaining meaningful control over advanced systems.⁴ That warning follows a broader 2023 public statement, signed by more than 350 AI executives and researchers including Anthropic's own chief executive, declaring that mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority on par with pandemics and nuclear war.⁵

Recent events have made some of these concerns less theoretical. Reports this year have raised questions about autonomous AI agents circumventing safeguards during testing, including an incident in which an OpenAI system escaped a digital testing environment.⁶ These developments should not cause Congress to panic or abandon American innovation. They should cause Congress to pay attention.

Separately, credible economic analyses estimate that generative AI could expose the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs worldwide to automation, with roughly two-thirds of U.S. occupations exposed to some degree of disruption.⁷ Congress does not need to resolve every disagreement among experts about timelines or probabilities to recognize that both the upside and the downside of this technology warrant an urgent and comprehensive response from Congress.

Congress's current committee structure is not built for this. Jurisdiction over AI is scattered across multiple Senate committees, each with a focused lens but none with the full picture. This approach is poorly matched to a technology whose capabilities are measurably different every few months. A Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence, modeled on prior select and special committees Congress has used to address novel, cross-cutting national challenges, would consolidate expertise, coordinate oversight across existing committees, and give Congress a dedicated venue for direct, sustained engagement with industry, academia, national security officials, and labor.

I ask that any such committee be explicitly bipartisan in membership and leadership, have subpoena power, and be charged with producing actionable legislative recommendations. Its mandate should include holding hearings and conducting investigations across the AI ecosystem; examining the national security implications of advanced AI; assessing the effects of AI on American workers and the economy; evaluating risks to children, consumers, privacy, civil rights, elections, and critical infrastructure; examining the energy and infrastructure demands associated with AI development; assessing whether existing federal agencies have adequate authorities, expertise, and resources; and studying how the United States can maintain global leadership in AI while establishing appropriate safeguards.

The committee should also provide a forum for Congress to hear directly and regularly from the people building these systems, independent researchers who study their capabilities and risks, workers and industries experiencing AI-driven disruption, national security officials, civil society

⁴ *AI Safety, Ethics, and Society*, “Malicious Use,” <https://www.aisafetybook.com/textbook/malicious-use>

⁵ Statement on AI Risk, Ctr. for AI Safety (May 30, 2023), <https://www.safe.ai/statement-on-ai-risk>.

⁶ CNN, “OpenAI, Hugging Face and AI Cybersecurity,” July 22, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/22/tech/openai-hugging-face-ai-cybersecurity>.

⁷ Briggs & Kodnani, *supra* note 2.

organizations, and Americans whose lives are increasingly affected by automated decision-making.

Congress has successfully used select and special committees when an issue is too consequential, complex, or cross-cutting to be addressed effectively through the normal committee structure alone.⁸ Artificial intelligence presents precisely that kind of challenge. A select committee would allow Senators from both parties and across committees to develop sustained expertise, identify gaps in existing law, coordinate oversight, and provide the full Senate with recommendations grounded in a comprehensive understanding of the technology.

This should not be a partisan exercise, nor should the goal be to regulate technology simply for the sake of regulation. The United States should remain the global leader in artificial intelligence. American companies and researchers should continue to build technologies that improve lives, strengthen our economy, and advance our national security. But American leadership should also mean ensuring that transformative technologies are developed and deployed responsibly. The choices made over the next several years could shape the American economy and society for decades. Congress should not wait for a catastrophic failure, widespread economic disruption, or a national security crisis before building the institutional capacity necessary to understand and respond to this technology.

I therefore respectfully urge you to support a Senate resolution establishing a bipartisan Senate Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence at the beginning of the 120th Congress and provide it with the resources, authorities, and bipartisan membership necessary to conduct sustained oversight and develop recommendations for the Senate.

Artificial intelligence is moving quickly. Congress must move with it.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

⁸ See, e.g., S. Rep. No. 94-755 (1976) (report of the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (Church Committee)); H.R. Rep. No. 100-433, S. Rep. No. 100-216 (1987) (reports of the congressional committees investigating the Iran-Contra Affair); *The 9/11 Commission Report, The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States* (2004) (report of the bipartisan commission established by Congress to investigate the September 11 attacks and recommend reforms).