



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) via [HELPGOP\\_AIComments@help.senate.gov](mailto:HELPGOP_AIComments@help.senate.gov)

**FROM:** Julia Jester [julia.jester@aau.edu](mailto:julia.jester@aau.edu)  
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Pamela Davidson, [pamela.davidson@aau.edu](mailto:pamela.davidson@aau.edu)

**DATE:** September 22, 2023

**RE:** Response to the White Paper, "[Exploring Congress' Framework for the Future of AI: The Oversight and Legislative Role of Congress over the Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Health, Education, and Labor](#)," and offer to convene campus AI experts.

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On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), we appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the White Paper titled, "Exploring Congress' Framework for the Future of AI: The Oversight and Legislative Role of Congress over the Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Health, Education, and Labor." AAU represents 69 leading research universities in the United States and as such, our member institutions have been at the forefront of the research into, innovation around, application of, and ethics regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AAU is currently engaging with our member institutions to better understand how they are utilizing and studying AI. We are also monitoring what new policies for the usage of AI our institutions are considering for faculty, staff, and students.

Thus, many of the questions you pose for consideration in the Committee's white paper are similar to those being asked by our member universities. As with any new innovative technology, there are many things to consider when it comes to AI in the postsecondary education space. AAU members have equities and interests in the specific areas you outline in your white paper related to research, transforming higher education, and healthcare regulation and privacy.

Federal support of fundamental AI research is a critical need in addition to industry investment in AI development and applications. The nation must continue to support AI research to allow for innovations in safety, security, health, agriculture, and many other areas. There is also a critical role for the federal government to play in supporting workforce training to support our AI needs through federal research support. This not only prepares students for the needs of industry but will also prepare AI researchers to perform future cutting-edge inquiry into the technology and its uses and pitfalls. Consequently, it is

important that we bolster federal support for AI research at federal agencies (including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Department of Defense, among others) and that this research includes work on the ethics, intellectual property considerations, and social impacts of AI.

Given the significant expertise on AI present on our member campuses, AAU can help policymakers navigate the challenges of this emerging scientific frontier. Specifically, AAU can serve as a resource to the Committee as it considers readiness for regulation and informing an AI framework. To this end, we would welcome the opportunity to assemble a roundtable discussion for Committee members and/or staff. This discussion would feature academic experts engaged in AI and AI research who can speak to some of the specific questions raised in the white paper. If this is of interest, please contact Pamela Davidson at: [pamela.davidson@aau.edu](mailto:pamela.davidson@aau.edu).

Again, we very much appreciate the Committee's willingness to invite comments from AAU and our member institutions on this very important issue. We look forward to working with the Committee as it moves forward with further discussion surrounding the future of AI.