



February 28, 2023

Joint Committee on General Law
Attn: Michael Shannon, Committee Clerk
Legislative Office Building, Room 3500
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. 1103 - An Act Concerning Artificial Intelligence, Automated Decision-Making and Personal Data Privacy.

Dear Co-Chair Maroney, Co-Chair D'Agostino, and Members of the Joint Committee on General Law:

On behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), I write to respectfully raise concerns regarding S.B. 1103, An Act Concerning Artificial Intelligence, Automated Decision-Making and Personal Data Privacy.

CCIA is an international, not-for-profit trade association representing a broad cross-section of communications and technology firms¹. For over 50 years, CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, and open networks.

CCIA strongly believes younger users deserve an enhanced level of security and privacy online. Currently, there are a number of efforts among our members to incorporate protective design features into their websites and platforms. CCIA's members have been leading the effort in raising the standard for teen safety and privacy across our industry by creating new features, settings, parental tools, and protections that are age-appropriate and tailored to the differing developmental needs of young people. Ahead of the consideration of legislation concerning minors and data privacy, we offer several comments to help guide the legislature's consideration of this policy area.

1. Any legislation should be sure to avoid unintended pitfalls which could put more children at risk.

As other states have considered well-intended legislation to shape childrens' online experience, many proposals that have been considered would implement requirements that would actually require the

¹ For 50 years, CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, and open networks. CCIA members employ more than 1.6 million workers, invest more than \$100 billion in research and development, and contribute trillions of dollars in productivity to the global economy. A list of CCIA members is available at <https://www.ccianet.org/members>.



harvesting of additional data on children and would enable third-party verification applications to access childrens' data. Under certain requirements businesses may be forced to accumulate personal information they don't want to collect and consumers don't want to give, and that data collection creates extra privacy and security risks for everyone, including children. Furthermore, implementing a parental consent requirement would likely require a verification process, and some states have considered measures that would authorize or even mandate the use of a third-party verification application, which would once again require the harvesting of childrens' sensitive data, this time sharing that private information with potentially unvetted and questionable operators, raising security concerns.

In addition, CCIA recognizes that policymakers are appropriately interested in the digital services that make a growing contribution to the U.S. economy, including artificial intelligence, and applauds the legislature's decision to form a task force to study this area. If the legislature does indeed move forward in creating a task force to study this area, CCIA is more than happy to be a resource in these efforts, and in the interim offers the following comments for consideration when deliberating on the topic of artificial intelligence.

2. Algorithmically-informed decision-making is complex. There are several ongoing studies at the national level aimed at understanding how to balance the capabilities and risks of these tools. These studies are intended to inform appropriately tailored and impactful regulation of such systems.

The AI systems that lawmakers seek to regulate are complex and warrant adequate understanding to reach intended outcomes appropriately. For example, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative (NAII) was established by bipartisan federal legislation enacted in 2021.² The NAII is tasked with ensuring continued U.S. leadership in AI R&D while preparing the present and future U.S. workforce to integrate AI systems across all sectors of the economy and society. Importantly, NAII is doing so in partnership with academia, industry, non-profits, and civil society organizations. Most recently, the U.S. Congress passed legislation to create a training program to help federal employees responsible for purchasing and managing AI technologies better understand the capabilities and risks they pose to the American people.³

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is also continuing to support the development of policies and practices that protect civil rights and promote democratic values in the building, deployment, and governance of automated systems. Released in October 2022, the *Blueprint*

² National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-283, § 5001-5501, 134 Stat. 4523-4547 (2021).

³ AI Training Act, Pub. L. No. 117-207, 136 Stat. 2238 (2022).



*for an AI Bill of Rights: Making Automated Systems Work for the American People*⁴ outlines five principles to guide the design, use, and deployment of automated systems to protect the American public in the age of artificial intelligence.

The deliberate, thoughtful, and bipartisan fashion in which leaders at the federal level are approaching the wide variety of issues associated with artificial intelligence and algorithmic decision-making is encouraging. These ongoing studies by national experts should signal the complexity of the issue. Lawmakers should review forthcoming best practices by technical experts to help inform the development of national standards and regulations.

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We appreciate the Joint Committee’s consideration of these comments and stand ready to provide additional information as the Legislature considers proposals related to technology policy.

Sincerely,

Khara Boender
State Policy Director
Computer & Communications Industry Association

⁴ White House, *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights* (Oct. 4, 2022), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/ai-bill-of-rights/>.