

**IN SUPPORT OF THE INCLUSION ON THE NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INITIATIVE ACT
IN THE FY2021 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT**

August 21, 2020

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Smith, and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry,

As leading organizations in the artificial intelligence and computing community, representing more than 185,000 computing researchers and practitioners, computing research institutions, Artificial Intelligence experts, and civil society groups, we appreciate the strong support for federal research investments in both House and Senate versions of the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 4049 and H.R. 6395). In particular, we were pleased by Division E of H.R. 6395, which comprises the bipartisan National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020, which we urge you to include in the final conference agreement.

At a time when our Nation needs to retain leadership in crucial emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, the National AI Initiative will help create a robust environment for AI research, education, and workforce development in the U.S. The strong focus on ethics, safety, security, and equal opportunity will help produce AI that functions for the good of society.

We appreciate the bipartisan effort of the co-sponsors to reach out to stakeholders in industry, academia, civil society, and government in crafting this bill and believe the final product is evidence of the value of that effort. We urge inclusion of the National AI Initiative Act in the conference agreement.

Sincerely,

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) - <http://aaai.org>
American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) - <http://asme.org>
Carnegie Mellon University - <http://cmu.edu>
Computing Research Association (CRA) - <http://cra.org>
Future of Life Institute - <https://futureoflife.org/>
IEEE-USA - <http://ieeeusa.org>