

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3302

December 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

We write with profound concern regarding reports that a broad moratorium on state and local regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) may be included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) or another unrelated legislative vehicle. Not only would such a provision be inconsistent with the purpose and goals of the NDAA, it would also wipe out existing state and local efforts to protect women and girls from AI-facilitated harassment, abuse, and endangerment. We strongly urge you to instead allow the House to consider bipartisan AI legislation under regular order.

The rapid expansion of AI technology clearly poses new challenges to our efforts to protect women and girls in America. Specifically, generative AI has increasingly been used by bad actors to track and stalk women, violate the privacy of domestic violence survivors, threaten the mental wellbeing of children, and create and distribute targeted, non-consensual pornographic images, or “deepfakes”, of women and girls at alarming rates.

Informed estimates indicate that approximately 95 percent of all deepfakes are non-consensual pornographic images — 99 percent of which depict women and girls. In addition, because many generative AI chatbots were not designed to comply with confidentiality laws, they can pose a distinct risk to domestic violence survivors who mistakenly believe these bots to be private and use them to seek legal, housing, or physical help. These are just some of the expanding number of threats that women and girls are facing at a time when AI technology is evolving and proliferating faster than our current efforts to establish sensible guardrails.

Because Congress has failed to pass legislation to meet this challenge, state and local governments have taken action on a bipartisan basis to protect vulnerable populations. To date, 44 states have enacted legislation protecting all people from “deepfakes” and two have done so

specifically to protect minors. In April, North Dakota took the important step of passing legislation prohibiting individuals from using AI-powered robots to stalk or harass others and related legislation is pending in states across the country. A federal moratorium would strip women and girls of existing protections and prevent states from enacting new safeguards.

While relevant legislation has stalled in the House and Senate, state and local governments are stepping up on a bipartisan basis and responding to this crisis of safety in innovative ways. We should be supporting and learning from these efforts — not seeking to nullify the important progress that state lawmakers have already made. A federal moratorium would deny state and local governments the ability to protect vulnerable members of our society and create a regulatory vacuum that will threaten women and girls across the United States.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to consider thoughtful, bipartisan AI legislation through regular order and not as part of an unrelated legislative vehicle.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress