Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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February 18, 2026

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a transformative technology with the potential to both improve and disrupt society. In recent years, a variety of federal and state legislation, executive orders, and other forms of guidance have established requirements for the development, deployment, and use of AI. Additionally, multiple oversight and advisory bodies have been created, and a range of AI rules, guidance documents, voluntary agreements, and other oversight mechanisms are being drafted and enacted across federal agencies and individual states.

In February 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order 13859, which directed the federal government to "consider ways to reduce barriers to the use of AI technologies in order to promote their innovative application while protecting civil liberties, privacy, American values, and United States economic and national security," and required agencies with regulatory authorities relevant to AI applications to submit plans demonstrating consistency with that direction.[1]

On November 17, 2020, the Office of Management and Budget issued a memorandum titled "Guidance for Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Applications."[2] Appendix A of that memorandum titled "Technical Guidance on Rulemaking," states:

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[1] Exec. Order No. 13,859, 84 Fed. Reg. 3,967, (Feb. 14, 2019).

[2] Office of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, Memorandum M-21-06, Guidance for Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Applications (Nov. 17, 2020), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/M-21-06.pdf.

"Consistent with applicable law and Executive Order 12866, before deciding to regulate, an agency must first identify the problem it seeks to address and consider whether regulation is justified or if non-regulatory approaches are appropriate. This process will often begin by **assessing the adequacy of existing regulation at a Federal, State, or local level, as well as potential actions by private parties**" (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the Senate's May 2024 Bipartisan Senate AI Working Group report called for a review of "significant federal statutes and regulations that affect the innovation of artificial intelligence systems, including the ability of companies of all sizes to compete in artificial intelligence."[3]

Similarly, the House Bipartisan AI Task Force issued its final report on December 7, 2024.[4] One recommendation in that report called for:

"…a study to analyze the applicable federal and state regulations and laws that affect the development and use of AI systems across sectors. Such a study should analyze which existing laws and legislative and administrative policies are technology-neutral but cover AI systems. Further, such a study could help policymakers better understand existing regulations and preemptive provisions."

To address these critical questions and aid in the legislative process, we request that GAO examine the current laws and regulations governing AI at both the federal and state levels. This review should cover laws and regulations that specifically pertain to AI, as well as existing laws and regulations that could be applied to AI.

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[3] THE BIPARTISAN SENATE AI WORKING GROUP, *Driving U.S. Innovation in Artificial Intelligence: A Roadmap for Artificial Intelligence Policy in the United States Senate*, at 8
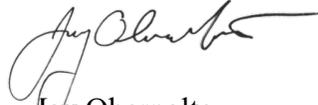
[4] BIPARTISAN H. TASK FORCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, *Bipartisan House Task Force Report on Artificial Intelligence*, at 30 (118th Cong., 2024).

For any questions related to this request, please contact Mr. Pranay Mittal of the Committee staff at (202)-225-6371.

Sincerely,

Brian Babin
Chairman
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology

Jay Obernolte
Chairman
Subcommittee on Research &
Technology
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology

cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
        The Honorable Haley Stevens