RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

HEARING CHARTER

"*Advancing America's AI Action Plan*"

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
10:00 a.m.
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Purpose
The purpose of the hearing is to examine President Trump's artificial intelligence (AI) strategy, "Winning the Race: America's AI Action Plan." This hearing will help inform future legislative actions that the Committee will consider to reauthorize the National AI Initiative Act and promote U.S. innovation and leadership in the field of AI.

Witness
- **Hon. Michael Kratsios**, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Overarching Questions
- What are the most important policy recommendations in the AI Action Plan within the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's jurisdiction?
- What challenges may exist in the implementation of those recommendations?
- How can Congress support the implementation of the AI Action Plan?
- What legislative initiatives should Congress advance that would be complementary to the AI Action Plan that were not discussed?
- How is OSTP coordinating with federal agencies on the implementation of the AI Action plan?

Background

On July 23, 2025, the White House unveiled "Winning the AI Race: America's AI Action Plan," structured around three pillars to advance American dominance in AI: innovation, infrastructure, and international diplomacy and security.[1] The AI Action Plan was released in response to President Trump's January executive order titled, "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence," and incorporates the feedback from more than 10,000 public comments.[2,3]

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) led the development of the plan and will oversee its implementation as part of the nation's broader science and technology policy agenda.[4] OSTP Director Michael Kratsios, confirmed on March 25, 2025, previously served as the Deputy Assistant to the President for Technology Policy, U.S. Chief Technology Officer (CTO), and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering during President Trump's first term.[5,6]

Separately, in December 2024, the House AI Task Force, co-led by Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA) and Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA), released a report outlining guiding principles for AI policy. The report included 66 key findings and 89 recommendations, many of which align with the AI Action Plan, such as expanding access to computing power for researchers, investing in K-12 AI education, and advancing AI evaluations.[7]

The National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020

The National AI Initiative Act of 2020 (NAIIA), led by the House Science, Space, and Technology (SST) Committee, became law in January 2021 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.[8,9] The law directs key agencies under the Committee's

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[1] White House Unveils America's AI Action Plan, THE WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/07/white-house-unveils-americas-ai-action-plan/.

[2] Exec. Order No. 14,179, 90 Fed. Reg. (Jan. 23, 2025) (Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence), https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence/.

[3] American Public Submits Over 10,000 Comments on White House's AI Action Plan, THE WHITE HOUSE (Apr. 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/04/american-public-submits-over-10000-comments-on-white-houses-ai-action-plan/.

[4] Office of Science and Technology Policy, THE WHITE HOUSE, https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/.

[5] Roll Call Vote 119th Congress - 1st Session, Vote No. 139 (Mar. 25, 2025) (Confirmation: Michael Kratsios as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy), https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1191/vote_119_1_00139.htm.

[6] Michael J.K. Kratsios, U.S. DEP'T OF WAR, https://www.war.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/Article/2279091/michael-jk-kratsios/.

[7] House Bipartisan Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Delivers Report, H. COMM. ON SCI., SPACE, & TECH. (Dec. 2024), https://science.house.gov/2024/12/house-bipartisan-task-force-on-artificial-intelligence-delivers-report.

[8] H.R. 6216, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020, H. COMM. ON SCI., SPACE, & TECH. (Dec. 2020), https://science.house.gov/2020/12/hr-6216-national-artificial-intelligence-initiative-act-2020.

[9] William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-283, 134 Stat. 3388 (2021), https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ283/PLAW-116publ283.pdf.

jurisdiction to support AI research and development, many of which also received significant policy recommendations in the AI Action Plan.[10]

Relevant SST Agencies

OSTP: The NAIIA tasked OSTP with coordinating the National AI Initiative to support continued U.S. leadership in AI research and development. OTSP also coordinated the White House AI Action Plan.

The National Science Foundation (NSF): The NAIIA directed the NSF to fund AI research and education and to establish a task force exploring the feasibility of a National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) Pilot. The NAIRR Pilot is intended to expand access to data and computing power (compute), such as semiconductors specialized for training or using AI and remote access to them. NSF launched the NAIRR Pilot in 2024, providing researchers and educators with compute and datasets to develop their own AI experiments.[11]

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): Part of the Department of Commerce (DOC), NIST develops AI guidance and frameworks for stakeholders. Under the NAIIA, NIST was tasked with creating the AI Risk Management Framework, a voluntary framework designed to help organizations manage the risks associated with AI systems.

Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI): CAISI, established within NIST, serves as a hub for AI technical expertise, and it tests and evaluates the most advanced American and foreign AI models.[12] CAISI was initially established as the AI Safety Institute by the Biden Administration in 2023.[13] In June 2025, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick restructured the institute and its responsibilities, renaming it CAISI.

Secretary Lutnick tasked CAISI with the following: (1) serving as the industry's primary government point of contact for AI testing and research; (2) conducting unclassified evaluations of AI capabilities and AI national security risks such as cybersecurity, biosecurity, and chemical weapons; (3) leading evaluations of U.S. and adversary AI systems; (4) coordinating with other federal agencies to develop evaluation methods and conduct evaluations and assessments; (5) establishing voluntary agreements with private sector AI companies; and (6) working with NIST to develop guidelines and best practices for AI systems and ensure U.S. dominance of international AI standards.

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[10] Winning the Race: America's AI Action Plan, THE WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf.
[11] National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Pilot, NSF, https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai/nairr.
[12] Howard Lutnick, Statement from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on Transforming the U.S. AI Safety Institute into the Pro-Innovation, Pro-Science U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation, DOC (June 2025), https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2025/06/statement-us-secretary-commerce-howard-lutnick-transforming-us-ai.
[13] U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo Announces Key Executive Leadership at U.S. AI Safety Institute, DOC (Feb. 2024), https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2024/02/us-commerce-secretary-gina-raimondo-announces-key-executive-leadership.

CHIPS Program Office: The CHIPS and Science Act, which passed through SST, established the CHIPS Program Office within NIST. The office administers semiconductor investments authorized by the Act.[14] Most recently, NIST assumed operational responsibility for managing $7.4 billion in semiconductor research funds after the Department of Commerce ended its contract with the National Center for the Advancement of Semiconductor Technology.[15]

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science: The DOE's Office of Science possesses some of the nation's top AI technical expertise and funds AI research, including classified national security-relevant projects. DOE also oversees the National Laboratories, which conduct their own AI research and have partnerships with leading American AI companies.

DOE operates three of the world's fastest supercomputers—Frontier at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Aurora at Argonne National Laboratory, and El Capitan at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — which are central to AI and national security applications.[16,17]

AI Action Plan Overview

The AI Action Plan is structured around three pillars: Accelerate AI Innovation, Build American AI Infrastructure, and Lead in International AI Diplomacy and Security.[18] Some of the recommended policy actions are detailed below.

Pillar I: Accelerate AI Innovation

The plan proposes that NSF, DOE, and NIST invest in automated, cloud-enabled laboratories, which are scientific facilities that can be autonomously and remotely operated. In line with this recommendation, NSF launched a new funding opportunity of up to $100 million to support a network of remotely operated, AI-enabled "programmable cloud laboratories."[19] To promote science and research, the plan also recommends expanding public and controlled access to high-quality scientific datasets, with NSF and DOE providing secure access to restricted data.

To better understand AI systems, the AI Action Plan advises that CAISI, NSF, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency prioritize AI interpretability (understanding how AI systems

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[14] Frequently Asked Questions: CHIPS Act of 2022 Provisions and Implementation, CRS, R47523, https://crs.gov/Reports/R47523.

[15] Department of Commerce Takes Action Against the Biden Administration's Unlawfully Established Operator of the National Semiconductor Technology Center, "Natcast", DOC (August 2025), https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2025/08/department-commerce-takes-action-against-biden-administrations.

[16] Argonne and Partners Celebrate Aurora Supercomputer's Impact on Science with AI and Exascale Power, ARGONNE NAT'L LAB'Y, https://www.anl.gov/article/argonne-and-partners-celebrate-aurora-supercomputers-impact-on-science-with-ai-and-exascale-power.

[17] Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's El Capitan Verified as World's Fastest Supercomputer, LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NAT'L LAB'Y, https://www.llnl.gov/article/52061/lawrence-livermore-national-laboratorys-el-capitan-verified-worlds-fastest-supercomputer.

[18] Winning the Race: America's AI Action Plan, THE WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf.

[19] NSF to Invest in New National Network of AI-Programmable Cloud Laboratories, NSF, https://www.nsf.gov/news/nsf-invest-new-national-network-ai-programmable-cloud.

work), AI control (ensuring AI systems remain in human control), and AI robustness (withstanding attacks from adversaries such as China). It also recommends that NIST, CAISI, NSF, and DOE build a national ecosystem for AI evaluations (evaluating the performance and reliability of AI systems). This aligns with both Secretary Lutnick's June announcement on CAISI and with the AI Advancement and Reliability Act of 2024, which the SST Committee passed in 2024, and which would authorize a similar center to evaluate AI systems.

The AI Action Plan recommends continuing to expand open-source and open-weight AI by building on the NAIRR Pilot's partnerships with technology companies, laying the foundations for a sustainable NAIRR, and improving the financial market for compute to increase access for academics and startups. The CREATE AI Act, which passed SST in 2024 and was reintroduced in 2025, would formally establish the NAIRR.

Following the plan's release, NSF announced the National AI Research Resource Operations Center, expanding on the successful NAIRR Pilot program.[20] NSF announced a partnership with NVIDIA to support the Open Multimodal AI Infrastructure to Accelerate Science project, led by the Allen Institute for AI.[21] The project will create a suite of advanced, open-source AI models for science, consistent with the AI Action Plan. NSF will contribute $75 million, and NVIDIA will provide $77 million.

To advance national security, the plan recommends that DOE, CAISI, OSTP, NSC, and the Intelligence Community collect intelligence on advanced foreign AI projects with national security implications. Further, it encourages NIST to revise the AI Risk Management Framework to remove references to misinformation, climate change, diversity, equity, and inclusion. It recommends that DOE, NSF, DOC, DOD, and other agencies also invest in next-gen manufacturing to support AI development and deployment.

The AI Action Plan recommends that OSTP lead the publishing of an updated National AI R&D Strategic Plan to guide federal AI research investments. In April 2025, NSF announced a request for information to inform the updated plan.[22] Additionally, the AI Action Plan emphasizes the importance of facilitating AI adoption by establishing regional regulatory sandboxes where developers can rapidly test AI tools and openly share their data and results.

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[20] Foundations for Operating the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource: The NAIRR Operations Center (NAIRR-OC), NSF, https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nairr-oc-foundations-operating-national-artificial-intelligence.
[21] NSF and NVIDIA Partnership Enables Ai2 to Develop Fully Open AI Models to Fuel U.S. Scientific Innovation, NSF, https://www.nsf.gov/news/nsf-nvidia-partnership-enables-ai2-develop-fully-open-ai.
[22] Request for Information on the Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research and Development (R&D) Strategic Plan, 90 Fed. Reg. 17835 (Apr. 29, 2025), https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/29/2025-07332/request-for-information-on-the-development-of-a-2025-national-artificial-intelligence-ai-research.

The plan also recommends NSF, DOC, the Department of Education (ED), and the Department of Labor (DOL) to prioritize AI skill development in education and workforce funding. The LIFT AI Act, which passed SST in 2024, would direct NSF to provide awards for K-12 AI skill development. Additionally, the NSF AI Education Act, which passed SST in 2024, would direct NSF to give awards for using AI in K-12 education.

In April 2025, President Trump signed an executive order creating an AI Education Task Force to coordinate federal efforts related to AI education and a Presidential AI Challenge to spotlight student and educator achievements.[23] In August 2025, NSF opened applications for the Presidential AI Challenge, with First Lady Melania Trump releasing a video to announce the initiative.[24,25]

Pillar II: Build American AI Infrastructure
The AI Action Plan proposes streamlining permitting for data center construction and optimizing the U.S. energy grid for AI use. Additionally, it suggests that the CHIPS Program Office remove extraneous policy requirements for CHIPS-funded semiconductor manufacturing projects and review their grants to accelerate American manufacturing of semiconductors for AI development and use.

To protect national security, the plan advises that CAISI and DHS bolster cybersecurity protections for critical infrastructure. It recommends that NIST and CAISI strengthen the federal capacity for AI incident response. It also calls for NIST, CAISI, NSC, DOD, and the IC to create technical standards for high-security data centers to protect sensitive government AI workloads from attacks by nation-state actors.

Regarding workforce development, the AI Action Plan advocates for the expansion of training and education programs to cultivate a workforce capable of building, operating, and maintaining AI infrastructure. It suggests that DOL, DOE, ED, NSF, and DOC work with state and local governments to support the creation of industry-driven training programs for AI infrastructure development. Furthermore, the plan recommends that DOL, ED, and NSF also develop programs to engage middle and high school students in priority AI infrastructure careers.

Pillar III: Lead in International AI Diplomacy & Security
The AI Action Plan calls for investing in biosecurity to reduce AI-enabled biological risks. In particular, it recommends that federally funded scientific research institutions be required to

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[23] Exec. Order (Apr. 23, 2025) (Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth), https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/advancing-artificial-intelligence-education-for-american-youth/.
[24] DCL: Supplemental Funding Requests to Support K-12 Artificial Intelligence, NSF, https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/dcl-supplemental-funding-requests-support-k-12-artificial.
[25] First Lady Melania Trump Launches Nationwide Presidential AI Challenge, WHITE HOUSE (Aug. 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/08/first-lady-melania-trump-launches-nationwide-presidential-ai-challenge/.

implement robust nucleic acid screening and customer verification procedures. The Nucleic Acid Standards for Biosecurity Act, which passed the SST Committee in 2024 and 2025, would direct NIST to support the development of technical standards for nucleic acid screening.

To protect national security, the plan designates that CAISI lead in evaluating national security risks posed by frontier AI models, including threats involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive weapons, as well as novel security vulnerabilities. It suggests building and maintaining national security-focused AI evaluation programs through collaborations between CAISI, national security agencies, and research institutions. Additionally, it recommends prioritizing recruitment of top AI researchers into NIST, CAISI, DOE, DOD, the IC, and other federal agencies.

On foreign policy, the AI Action Plan advises strengthening the enforcement of semiconductor export controls, developing new export controls on subsystems used in semiconductor manufacturing, and countering Chinese influence in international governance bodies.

Relevant Executive Orders
The White House released the following three executive orders on the same day as the AI Action Plan.

"Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government" directs agency leaders to procure only those Large Language Models (LLMs) that adhere to truth-seeking and ideological neutrality principles.[26] Developers of these LLMs may comply with the ideological neutrality requirement by releasing certain information about the LLM, such as its evaluations.

"Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack" aims to increase international adoption of American AI technologies rather than the AI technologies developed by our adversaries.[27] DOC, the Department of State, and OSTP will implement the American AI Exports Program to support the export of American AI technology, including chips, cloud services, AI models and systems, AI security measures, and use-case specific AI applications.

"Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure" eases federal regulatory burdens, allowing the buildout of AI data centers and infrastructure to power them.[28] DOC, OSTP, and other relevant agencies will identify and offer financial support for data center projects that involve an electric load greater than 100 megawatts or have received $500 million from their primary sponsor.

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[26] Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government, WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/preventing-woke-ai-in-the-federal-government/.
[27] Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack, WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/promoting-the-export-of-the-american-ai-technology-stack/.
[28] Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure, WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/accelerating-federal-permitting-of-data-center-infrastructure/.