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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Harrisburg

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Kim Ward President Pro Tempore, Senate of Pennsylvania 292 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

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The Honorable Debra Todd Chief Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court 601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 1500 Harrisburg, PA 17106

The Honorable Josh Shapiro Governor of Pennsylvania 508 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Joanna McClinton Speaker, Pennsylvania House of Representatives 139 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Artificial Intelligence Opportunity Task Force

On behalf of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Republican Caucus, I write to all of you as colleagues regarding emerging technology that will deeply and irrevocably impact Pennsylvanians for generations. Artificial intelligence technologies will transform our society, reshaping practically every aspect of our citizens' lives from the ways we work and play to how we care for our families, educate our children, and grow our economy.

The field of artificial intelligence ("AI") has grown exponentially in recent years to reach the cusp of artificial general intelligence. Perhaps, on a secure server somewhere, even that threshold has already been breached. This is understandably a cause for concern and even fear for many. Science fiction and our imaginations conjure dystopian horrors. Even more sober-minded alarmists describe looming risks to privacy and other civil liberties, exacerbation of class differences, disinformation and fraudulent misuse of individuals' likenesses, and risks to commercial, financial, and other interrelated systems. These concerns are not without foundation. But while AI may have been described by some as an unruly "wild, wild west," we look at this emerging technology instead as a new frontier - one for our Commonwealth to cross enthusiastically. We know it is possible to encourage innovation in AI as a way toward broad prosperity, while at the same time carefully protecting Pennsylvanians from any ill-natured consequences. The history of our nation and our Commonwealth is filled with instances of men and women taking risks, stepping out in faith, and challenging the status quo of their communities with new and innovative ideas. We believe that AI is this generation's moment to take that trailblazing next step.

It is our responsibility to thread the delicate needle between protecting our citizens from misuse and abuse of AI while at the same time embracing the spirit of ingenuity and entrepreneurship that opened this new frontier. The time has passed for asking "Should we utilize AI?" We already are; this change is irreversible. Rather, the time is now to ask, "How can we, as the entrusted public servants of this Commonwealth, utilize AI in order to achieve what is so important to all of us – a thriving economy, affordable living, safe communities, and family-centered opportunities for our children to learn, grow and thrive?" These goals are our Keystone Commitment.

To answer this question, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Republicans announce the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Opportunity Task Force composed of the following members who will provide leadership for this Commonwealth in this most exciting of new technologies:

- Representative Valerie Gaydos
- Representative Robert Leadbeter
- Representative Jason Ortitay
- Representative Alec Ryncavage
- Representative Stephenie Scialabba

The opportunities and challenges of promoting ethical innovation and use of AI are not partisan; they are bipartisan, inter-branch matters of urgent public concern. This new field of technology demands cooperation among us all in crafting legislation and steering government operations in a way that responsibly protects Pennsylvanians but does not stifle AI innovation. We aspire not just to grow AI in our Commonwealth, but to supercharge its development and adoption – drawing to Pennsylvania investment, jobs, infrastructure, and widespread opportunity.

That is why we write to you now. We invite your participation with the Artificial Intelligence Opportunity Task Force and anticipate that each of you will make available to the Artificial Intelligence Opportunity Task Force the information, viewpoints, and representatives needed to inform its important work.

The job set before the task force is not small and we do not expect a single, hasty set of recommendations. Indeed, we do not expect the challenges before this task force will remain the same over the course of its members' service. So instead, we encourage the task force to view its role as ongoing and to provide periodic reports and recommendations as it deems most effective. Each of you represents a branch of Pennsylvania state government. Each of you has your own perspectives on how AI should be governed and promoted. We look forward to partnering in earnest with you to lead Pennsylvania into the new frontier of artificial intelligence while keeping true to our commitment to improving the lives of the people of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Bryan D. Cutler Republican Leader

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

100th Legislative District

cc: Representative Valerie Gaydos
Representative Robert Leadbeter
Representative Jason Ortitay
Representative Alec Ryncavage
Representative Stephenie Scialabba