The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 5, 2026

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leaders of the Democratic Party:

Congratulations on securing a majority in the United States Senate and House of Representatives following this year's midterm elections. As a coalition of civil society organizations that support AI safeguards, we were strongly encouraged by the campaign-trail attention to AI policy addressing voter concerns regarding AI risks to families, workers, and communities. As you plan to take leadership of the House and Senate, **we write today to urge you to address those concerns by appointing lawmakers who make strong, forward-looking commitments to advancing robust AI guardrails to positions of leadership in the new Congress.**

During this year's midterm elections, hundreds of candidates across the country responded to rising voter concerns about AI by staking out policy positions supporting stronger guardrails to protect the public. An early analysis by the *Washington Post* found that candidates in 40 percent of this year's congressional races raised AI policy issues.[1] In the final months of the midterm, Democratic Party institutions explicitly recommended campaign advertising highlighting AI issues in dozens of key races.[2] By all counts, 2026 was a year that candidates ran and won advocating for AI guardrails.

Congressional leadership now has the responsibility of turning this year's midterm energy into legislative movement on AI policy.

We urge you to elevate candidates to House and Senate leadership positions who meet the moment. In particular, we ask that you assess candidates for chair and subcommittee chair ranking positions based on their support for binding AI regulations, their opposition to state AI law preemption, and their rejection of anti-regulatory super PAC money in this year's midterms. Committee and subcommittee leadership should be held to a high standard, including:

1. **A Commitment to Mandatory AI Regulations:** In the face of a rising wave of AI incidents, growing cybersecurity and consumer protection risks, and alarming warnings

[1] Ovide, Shira. The unexpected issue dividing parties and midterms candidates. Washington Post. August 14, 2026.
[2] Shapero, Julia. DCCC pushes for ads targeting GOP on AI, data centers in dozens of key House races. The Hill. October 27, 2026.

from industry experts, it is clear that voluntary commitments and laws that allow AI companies to write their own safety standards are insufficient. Candidates for relevant chair and subcommittee chair positions should support an AI regulatory regime that empowers the government, not AI companies, to set AI rules. Those rules must protect kids, workers, communities, and the American public and include clear red lines, prohibitions, and mandatory, binding, and enforceable safety standards for advanced AI.

2. **Opposition to Preemption:** Committee leadership should also strongly support the critical rights of states to establish additional AI regulations beyond those set by Congress. Over the past Congress, lawmakers pursued consecutive failed attempts at preempting a sweeping set of state laws with no adequate federal replacement, repeatedly highlighting widespread public opposition to preemption. At a moment of rising public concern over quickly advancing AI risks, Congress should not eliminate strong state laws in exchange for weaker federal standards.

3. **Independence from Anti-Regulatory Super PACs:** During this year's midterms, AI industry-backed super PACs spent tens of millions of dollars supporting candidates who opposed stronger safeguards. As Congress prepares to establish binding rules for advanced AI, it is critical that the lawmakers leading this effort be independent of the tech companies seeking to weaken or prevent meaningful regulation. Congressional leadership should prioritize candidates for committee leadership positions who have not received financial backing from anti-regulatory super PACs such as Leading the Future (LTF) or who have explicitly rejected such super PACs.

The standards outlined in this letter provide a strong set of benchmarks by which to judge candidates for House and Senate leadership positions on AI policy. Following a midterm election in which voters expressed enthusiasm for stronger guardrails, it is now critical that party leaders help turn the vision that candidates shared on the campaign trail into federal legislation and oversight. That transformation starts with the right committee leadership.

Thank you for your attention to AI policy as you work to shape the leadership of the 120th Congress. We look forward to working with you and the next Congress to translate the commitments made to voters into meaningful protections for the American public.

Sincerely,

Americans for Responsible Innovation
Demand Progress
Encode
Tech Oversight Project

The Alliance for Secure AI
Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund
Becca Schmill Foundation
Black Voters Matter Fund
Bread for the City
California Initiative for Technology and Democracy
Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP)
Center for Countering Digital Harm
Center for Oil & Gas Organizing
Changing Perspectives
Common Cause
Common Sense Media
CommonDefense.us
Consumer Action
Devin J Norring Foundation
Digital Childhood Institute
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
EdTech Law Center
For Good Advisory
GivePulse
Greenpeace USA
GuardRailNow
Guardrails Action
Hispanic Federation
Humans in Control
Indivisible
Irreplaceable
Kapor Center Advocacy
Lynn's Warriors
Media Alliance
NTEN
Open Markets Institute
Oxfam America
Parent Coalition for Student Privacy
Paving the Way Foundation
QuitGPT
Scrolling 2 Death
Secure AI Project
Secure Justice
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)

Shelly Casto Fractional Fundraising
socialmediaharms.org
Ternity Education
Third Act
Transparency Coalition
Who Decides
World Without Exploitation
The Young People's Alliance