SAFE Innovation Framework

Since a major national workshop in 1956, artificial intelligence's (AI) potential has been clear. Today, that potential has become a reality: the AI age is here and here to stay.

The full potential of AI to benefit society is vast, and it is likely to be among the most consequential inventions in human history. Already, breakthroughs are happening all around us, from helping develop incredible new materials to synthesizing life-saving medications. But this potential for societal benefits comes with the risk of societal harms: significant job displacement, misuse by our adversaries and other bad actors, supercharged disinformation, and the amplification of bias are among the pressing concerns. For instance, while the defense and intelligence applications of AI will help tackle challenging national security threats, it may also present new risks. Concurrently, the rapid pace at which AI is advancing presents unique challenges. The 'black box' of AI systems and its ever-expanding use cases demand we invest in the research and innovation necessary to better understand how these systems work and how we can harness their potential for good. With so much potential, the U.S. must lead in innovation and write the rules of the road on AI and not let adversaries like the Chinese Communist Party craft the standards for a technology set to become as transformative as electricity.

Therefore, I am developing a policy response that invests in American ingenuity; solidifies American innovation leadership; protects and supports our workforce; enhances our national security; and ensures AI is developed and deployed in a responsible and transparent manner.

The central policy objectives of my SAFE Innovation Framework are:

1. **Security:** Safeguard our national security with AI and determine how adversaries use it, and ensure economic security for workers by mitigating and responding to job loss;
2. **Accountability:** Support the deployment of responsible systems to address concerns around misinformation and bias, support our creators by addressing copyright concerns, protect intellectual property, and address liability;
3. **Foundations:** Require that AI systems align with our democratic values at their core, protect our elections, promote AI's societal benefits while avoiding the potential harms, and stop the Chinese Government from writing the rules of the road on AI;
4. **Explain:** Determine what information the federal government needs from AI developers and deployers to be a better steward of the public good, and what information the public needs to know about an AI system, data, or content.
5. **Innovation:** Support US-led innovation in AI technologies – including innovation in security, transparency and accountability – that focuses on unlocking the immense potential of AI and maintaining U.S. leadership in the technology.

These policy objectives are at the center of my work on AI, but this is not a comprehensive list of the multitude of opportunities and challenges we face. To address the spectrum of AI topics, I have convened an all-hands-on-deck effort in the Senate, with committees developing bipartisan legislation, and a bipartisan gang of non-committee chairs working to further develop the Senate's policy response. We must approach AI with the urgency and humility it deserves.