

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Brenda Lawrence
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H. Res. 153, a House Resolution supporting the development of guidelines for ethical development of artificial intelligence.

Dear Representative Lawrence,

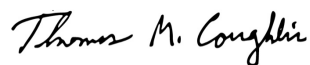
On behalf of the IEEE-USA, representing nearly 180,000 science and technology professionals across the United States, we offer our support for H.Res. 153. We are pleased to see Congress take the first step in addressing the ethical challenges that implementing artificial intelligence (AI) technologies will present to our society, and ensure that the American public has the opportunity to work with government, industry, and academia to develop AI in an ethical and transparent manner.

IEEE members are the men and women who create the technology that defines our society. We built the internet, cell phones, satellites, power stations, and other innovations that allow our modern society to function and thrive. As such, IEEE has a unique perspective on the benefits of these technologies – and the risks. Insufficient attention to AI as a fast-moving, emerging technology could result in high-profile controversies such as misuse of personal data, critical technological failures, or even loss of life. Such events could create the potential for policymakers to react in ways that unnecessarily stifle entire industries or support regulations that do not effectively protect the public.

To mitigate these risks, we welcome your call to the science and technology community to develop guidelines, especially as they relate to the safety, security, and control of AI systems now, and the encouragement to ensure that AI is implemented in the future with thoughtful guidance. AI has great potential to enhance all sectors of our economy, from optimizing the production and supply of goods, to improving health care outcomes and opening up novel ways of ensuring access to education for everyone. We do not want to stifle those possibilities. We agree that regulation and innovation must go hand in hand while we take advantage of the great promise of this new technology.

IEEE-USA is ready to help Congress tackle this difficult challenge. Should you have any questions or wish to consult with experts who work in the research and development of AI, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Wissolik, Program Manager for Government Relations in our Washington Office, at e.wissolik@ieee.org or (202) 530-8347. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Coughlin".

Thomas Coughlin
2019 IEEE-USA President