



SENATOR ANGELA S. PAXTON

DISTRICT 8

June 30, 2025

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Urgent Request to Remove AI Moratorium

Dear Senator Cornyn and Senator Cruz,

I am writing today to encourage you to remove the AI moratorium provision from the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB). As you know, the Texas Legislature recently passed a number of bills that will protect Texans from potential harms of artificial intelligence (AI). One of these bills, the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act (TRAIGA), was signed into law by Governor Abbott recently, and it enacts a number of important protections for Texans.

TRAIGA will prohibit the use of AI for such purposes as creating a social credit system, encouraging self-harm, or committing crimes. The new Texas law also creates a regulatory sandbox that encourages innovation while allowing us to explore the best regulatory approach to AI. If the OBBB passes with the AI moratorium in place, our important work on preventing child pornography, protecting data privacy, preventing discrimination, and holding Big Tech accountable in Texas will be rendered moot. Surely we can all agree that these kinds of state protections do not interfere with legitimate innovation and are reasonable and appropriate.

In addition to overturning this important Texas legislation, the proposed AI moratorium in the OBBB violates the principle of federalism inherent in the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Texas, and every other state, has a right and a duty to legislate on AI. By preventing states from legislating on an issue that will have a rapid and unprecedented impact on our society in the next few years, Congress would be trampling on states' rights.

It is anticipated that within the next few years AI could develop into something called artificial general intelligence (AGI). This technology is expected to be far "smarter" than any human being, and it raises serious moral, ethical, legal, and policy questions that we as state lawmakers need to be able to address.

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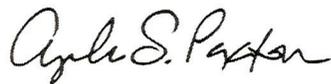
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AI this powerful could be misused or even weaponized by our adversaries around the world, who might use it to attack our critical infrastructure in Texas through sophisticated cyber attacks. Local communities and state governments are the first responders to such incidents, and it is imperative that states maintain their ability to pass laws to prepare accordingly. States are inherently able to act with greater agility to address these issues as they emerge than the federal government. The states must not be handcuffed during a crisis, awaiting the federal government to do what they can and should do for themselves.

For all of these reasons and more, I strongly implore you to remove the moratorium on AI legislation from the OBBB. In the spirit of federalism, protecting Texans from potential harms due to AI, and giving us the flexibility we need to design policies to deal with the imminent AI revolution, I ask you not to undo the important work Texas has already done on this issue. Let the states lead when it comes to striking the balance between protecting our citizens from potential harms due to AI and ensuring that America leads on AI development.

Thank you for your time, consideration and leadership.

Blessings,



Angela S. Paxton
Texas State Senator

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