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TechNet Mid-Atlantic | Telephone 717.585.8622
www.technet.org | @TechNetMidAtla1

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 883 (Bhandari) - Department of Information Technology - Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (Maryland Artificial Intelligence in Governmental Services Act).

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to offer comments on HB 883 related to the evaluation of emerging technologies.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, and Washington, D.C.

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and the algorithms that often support artificial intelligence have generated policymaker interest. We acknowledge that as technological advances emerge, policymakers' understanding of how these technologies work is vital for responsible policymaking. Our member companies are committed to responsible AI development and use.

While the intent of HB 883 is laudable, TechNet is requesting the sponsor strike the reference to "commercial cloud computer services" on page two, lines four and five of the bill. We believe the inclusion of these types of computer services doesn't align with the overall scope of the bill, which is directed towards AI.

Thank you for considering our suggested change to HB 883 to better tailor the bill specifically to AI uses. Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Durkin

Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic