

March 8, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1068 Commission on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Maryland

Chairman Peña-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health & Government Operations committee, we write to offer our support for the Commission on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (HB 1068).

We believe that this year marks a pivotal moment in AI development. We have already seen dramatic advancements in the power and promise of AI—advancements that promise to provide tremendous opportunities across society, including new tools to help us address major societal challenges relating to healthcare, productivity, and government services. Additional advancements are likely to follow. While we are confident that those advancements will bring tremendous benefits, we also recognize that they pose a wide range of potential challenges. For that reason, we must take steps to ensure that AI is developed and deployed responsibly, ethically, and safely.

At Microsoft, we have engaged upon a multi-year effort to build our Responsible AI program. It began in 2016, when Satya Nadella wrote an article outlining important concepts to ensure that AI is developed and deployed responsibly. Those concepts ultimately served as the basis not only for the development of ethical principles to guide our work on AI, but for the creation of concrete policies, processes, tools, and governance systems within the company to ensure that our AI principles are implemented fundamentally into our design and deployment of technology. That work continues today.

We support the creation of a commission to examine the promise and potential pitfalls that the next generation of AI may bring. In conducting its work, we would encourage members of the commission to look at best practices, like the recently released *NIST AI Risk Management Framework*, which provides a framework for how organizations can develop their own responsible AI Programs, and to international standards, such as those from the OECD, for guidance in the development of responsible AI programs. We also support efforts to analyze existing laws to identify how they can address the challenges posed by AI, and where there are gaps in regulation that should be filled by new laws. Lastly, we support the multistakeholder composition for this commission, and believe that it will be important for the commission to receive input from a wide range of stakeholders across government, civil society, academia, and industry.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge a favorable report.

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