



**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
Senate Bill 1087
Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission
February 22, 2024
Favorable with Amendment**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 1087 establishing the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission.

The University System of Maryland (USM) is comprised of twelve distinguished institutions, and three regional centers. We award eight out of every ten bachelor's degrees in the State. Each of USM's 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes three Historically Black Institutions, comprehensive institutions and research universities, and the country's largest public online institution.

Nationally, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has quickly become one of the most transformative technologies, with its impact spanning everything from the creative arts to agricultural production and from the home computer to homeland security. Governing the responsible and ethical use of generative artificial intelligence takes a large, but balanced, community of "thought leaders" and practitioners.

The USM believes an oversight commission of this import is enhanced exponentially by partnering with the expertise represented in the widest swath of Maryland's system of public higher education. Expanding the commission membership to embrace faculty experts will provide crucial advice as the commission oversees the responsible, efficient and ethical use of generative AI across the state. USM's leadership will also open opportunities for the state to leverage key private sector innovations and establish a channel of communication with USM's existing industry partners who are at the forefront of multifaceted AI development, machine learning, and data analytics. USM institutions and centers possess state-of-the-art computing infrastructure to address complex problems at scale to extract meaningful insights from large datasets and optimize decision-making processes.

The USM has deep expertise and research knowledge on the technical, ethical, legal, operational, and subject matter specific aspects of artificial intelligence. The USM would welcome the opportunity to assist the State of Maryland in shaping artificial intelligence to benefit the state while addressing any issues the technology may present. By allowing the Chancellor to appoint these members, we can ensure that the most content knowledgeable people are able to serve on the Commission.

The USM respectfully requests an amendment to Senate Bill 1087:

Page 2; after line 4 is amended to read:

“(5) FIVE MEMBERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE CHANCELLOR.”

Thank you for allowing the USM to share our position on Senate Bill 1087 and respectfully request the above amendment.

