Testimony to State of MD SB 1087 pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: anthony watson

Position: FAV

SENATE BILL 1087 MARYLAND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

February 21, 2024

From: Anthony Watson
              2335 S. Rolfe StreetArlington, VA, 22202

Subject: State of Maryland Senate Bill SB 1087 introduced by Senator Cory McCray

              In FAV of this bill

In-person testimony:

This testimony is in support (FAV) of SB 1087.

Einstein was wrong. In 1935 he was famously quoted as saying that quantum physics was "spooky action at a distance". That declaration set off a wave of research and discovery that led to the creation of X-ray machines, the MRI, quantum computers, and a lot more. Recently the advent of AI Large Language Models such as ChatGPT has initiated a revolution in information science, leading to our ability to amplify our creativity, produce more, and will unquestionably lead to the discovery of cures for diseases worldwide.

Combine these revolutionary technologies with the fact that there are 8 million job openings in the U. S. but only 5 million eligible workers and the urgency of preparing our young people for careers in STEM becomes clear. Dr Tyrone Taborn, CEO of Career Communications Group, has created in Baltimore the nation's largest conference to attract young people into STEM, and last week 2600 students were mentored by over 150 admirals and generals including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force. It also included SES professionals and CEOs of major fortune 100 companies. We need this kind of investment to develop the base to actualize these new technologies for the betterment of our citizens.

But please also keep in mind that *function* follows *form*. The form, or framework, with which supportive funding of quantum computing and Large Language Model development (like ChatGPT) will dictate how the funding is ultimately allocated. For that reason, it is critically important to establish this framework to tap the broad richness of the entire community. We know from recent experience for example that many AI developers have not included consideration of diverse facial characteristics in facial recognition. It's not just these characteristics but also the experiences and cultures of people that need to become a viable part of everything from the research and development to the product delivery, the people who experience the pain of sickle cell anemia or essential tremors. The solutions to these issues may very well lie in being able to create dynamic models of the proteins that function to make up our DNA or virus molecules. We can't do that today, but quantum computing will enable it.

Funding these new technologies should start with a framework that embraces the entire spectrum of Maryland's population. Function follows form, and what gets measured gets done. I suggest consideration that funding for support of these life changing technologies be subject to review by a designated group that embraces the richness of all of the population of the State of Maryland.

SB 1087 Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Destiny Bell

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City
_____

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP
_____

Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittees
Chair, Health and Human Services
Vice Chair, Capital Budget
_____

Executive Nominations Committee
_____

Legislative Policy Committee
Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

James Senate Office Building
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Cory.McCray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes to SB1087

Title: Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission
Education, Energy, and the Environment
Hearing: February 22, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Respected Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my endorsement of **Senate Bill 1087**, which seeks to establish the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. The primary objective of this legislation is to provide guidance to the State in the growth, development, utilization, and diversification of Artificial Intelligence. Ensuring that the inevitable future surrounding AI is being proactively measured against in Maryland.

Significance and Impact: Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents a profound opportunity for American innovation and the immense potential of AI to enhance our lives and governmental functions has been widely acknowledged. **Senate Bill 1087** significance lies in establishing an advisory framework that identifies the risks associated with AI systems and formulates appropriate guidelines for our State's usage. The legislation offers crucial direction as the State progresses in AI expansion, development, utilization, and diversification. Notably it places a strong emphasis on fostering diversity within AI usage, specifically the needs and concerns of underrepresented populations. This includes ensuring diversity in contract awards and training programs related to artificial intelligence, encompassing racial diversity. Additionally, the bill aims to provide assistance and recommendations on the use of AI by diverse groups in the state.

Important Considerations: The establishment of the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission is a pivotal stride towards fostering inclusivity in the AI domain. Through the incorporation of an advisory, this commission will play a crucial role in ensuring that the expansion, development, and utilization of artificial intelligence are executed responsibly and with due consideration for racial diversity. I am wholeheartedly dedicated to advocating for

the passage of **SB 1087**, recognizing its significance in promoting fair and responsible integration of AI technologies in our State.

Thank you for your attention, and I urge you to consider the positive impact that **Senate Bill 1087** can have on our state.

Respectfully,

Cory V. McCray
45th District

RJR-(Varonis) SB1087 Letter (SUPPORT)(2024).pdf

Uploaded by: Jason Bonasera

Position: FAV

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: ***Senate Bill 1087: Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory & Oversight Committee – SUPPORT***

February 22, 2024

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of Varonis Systems, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support with amendments to Senate Bill 1087, entitled: *Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory & Oversight Committee.*

As written, Senate Bill 1087 would establish the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory & Oversight Committee.   The commission, made up of state lawmakers, the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), public education, and private sector representatives, would be tasked with guiding the State in growing, developing, using, and diversifying artificial intelligence (AI).   The commission would also be responsible for ensuring that AI-related training programs and contract awards would be diverse. In addition, the commission would make recommendations on the use of AI by diverse groups in the State of Maryland.

Artificial intelligence dates to the 1960s with the creation of the first AI chatbot, ELIZA, developed by Joseph Weizenbaum. However, since the introduction of ChatGPT in late 2022, AI has taken the world by storm. AI has given the world access to a powerful tool and the technology will continue to evolve in the years to come.

As new AI tools are released, companies and state governments must educate their teams on how to properly use them and stay aware of the positive aspects and negative concerns as they are discovered. Understanding the benefits and risks involved with AI, will require guidance and education to from a cross-section of experts in both the private and public sectors, statewide. The establishment of this new commission is one of the first legislative policy steps forward to ensuring that the various AI tools available to the State are being properly used, while also advancing racial diversity in Maryland's procurement selection process and training programs.

Varonis Systems is an international cyber and data security company - we are extremely aware of the many advantages that AI offers as well as the challenges and risks associated with the tool. AI introduces several security risks that need to be carefully considered when implementing and using the technology. A commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting, entitled, "*Maximizing Business Potential With Generative AI: The Path to Transformation*" stated that with 64% of respondents reporting they don't know how to evaluate the security of generative AI tools.

Should this new commission be created through the enactment of Senate Bill 1087, Varonis strongly recommends that guidance pertaining to security awareness and protections are part of those AI discussions and strategies.   For Varonis, we stand ready to assist this commission and the State as AI becomes more integrated into our state infrastructure, school systems, and daily use.

It is for these reasons that Varonis supports the passage of Senate Bill 1087 and urges this committee to give this legislation a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Jason Bonasera

Jason Bonasera
Varonis Systems, Inc.

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV_SB1087.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenny Kraska

Position: FAV

February 22, 2024

SB 1087
Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill 1087. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 1087 is legislation that would establish the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. This forward-thinking initiative reflects our commitment to harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) for the common good while ensuring ethical oversight, accountability, and equitable access to its benefits. As Pope Francis recently remarked *"I am convinced that the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning has the potential to contribute in a positive way to the future of humanity…I am certain that this potential will be realized only if there is a constant and consistent commitment on the part of those developing these technologies to act ethically and responsibly."*

The Catholic Church teaches that technological advancements, including those in the field of artificial intelligence, should be guided by principles of human dignity, solidarity, and the common good. As AI continues to play an increasingly significant role in our lives, it is essential that we approach its development and deployment with careful consideration for its impact on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

The establishment of the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission represents a proactive and responsible approach to navigating the opportunities and challenges presented by AI technology. By bringing together experts from diverse fields, including ethics, law, technology, and social sciences, the Commission will provide invaluable guidance and recommendations to ensure that AI development in our state is conducted ethically, transparently, and in the service of human flourishing.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 1087.

SB1087 Testimony_Taborn.pdf

Uploaded by: Ty Oliver Taborn

Position: FAV

Career Communications Group, Inc.
729 E. Pratt Street
Ste. 504
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Members of the Committee,

My name is Ty Oliver Taborn, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Career Communications Group, Inc.

I submit this written testimony to emphasize the critical importance of Maryland Senate Bill 1087, which seeks to establish the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. This bill is a crucial step towards ensuring that the voices of diverse communities are included in the development of large language models (LLMs) and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

AI has the potential to bring about transformative change in our society, impacting various aspects of our lives. However, without proper oversight and guidance, there is a risk that AI technologies may perpetuate or even exacerbate existing inequalities. This is why it is essential that we actively engage and involve diverse communities in the development and deployment of AI.

The establishment of the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission is a proactive step towards achieving this goal. This commission will provide a platform for diverse communities to voice their concerns and perspectives on AI-related policies and practices. By including diverse voices in the conversation, we can ensure that AI technologies are developed in a way that is inclusive and equitable.

Furthermore, by actively involving underrepresented communities in the development of AI, we can harness their unique insights and experiences to create AI systems that better serve all members of society. This is not only a matter of fairness but also of effectiveness; AI systems that are developed with input from diverse communities are more likely to be trusted and accepted by the public.

In conclusion, the subject matter of Senate Bill 1087 is of paramount importance. By establishing the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission, we demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that the development of AI is inclusive and equitable. I urge you to support this bill, as it represents a crucial step towards a future where AI works for everyone.

Sincerely,

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.

SB1087_MdAICommission_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Pegeen Towsend

Position: FWA

Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 1087 - Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission

Position: *Support with Amendments*
February 22, 2024
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to support and propose amendments to Senate Bill 1087.

As technology rapidly advances beyond the scope of our existing regulatory and statutory framework, any efforts to govern innovations like artificial intelligence (AI) and/or other digital algorithmic processes must balance flexibility, innovation, and accountability. Health care technology for clinical decision-making, service delivery, and patient records has advanced significantly in the last decade alone. All our member hospitals use a form of electronic medical record, health information exchange network, and/or claims clearinghouse to perform day-to-day operations. Some of the vendors behind these applications are starting to integrate AI into their offerings, and others are expected to follow suit.

Hospitals and health care providers must be included from the beginning in any discussions on governing AI to ensure we can provide a digitally optimized health care experience. We recognize that although AI and other algorithmic innovations offer significant potential to boost hospital efficiency and outcomes, it also has the potential to exacerbate biases and crystallize outdated standards. We welcome the opportunity to work with industry experts through this Committee to stay informed and engaged on emerging issues in AI and AI regulation. We offer the following amendment to SB 1087:

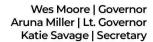On page 2, in line 2, strike "AND"; and in line 4, after "BOARD" insert:

"(5) A MEMBER REPRESENTING HOSPITALS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR".

For these reasons, we request a ***favorable*** report on SB 1087 and MHA's proposed amendment.

For more information, please contact:
Pegeen Townsend, Consultant
Ptownsend@mhaonline.org

Senate Bill 1087 - DoIT Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrick Mulford

Position: UNF

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: Senate Bill 1087 - Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission
DATE: February 22, 2024
POSITION: Oppose

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
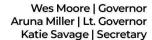Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) opposes Senate Bill 1087 - Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission, which seeks to establish the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. While DoIT acknowledges the importance of promoting the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in our state, and the utility of an advisory group made up of experts and key stakeholders to advise the state on direction, we believe that the creation of this commission duplicates efforts already undertaken by existing initiatives and presents logistical challenges that outweigh its potential benefits.

Specifically, we want to highlight the recent establishment of an AI subcabinet by Maryland Governor Wes Moore through an executive order. This subcabinet, which first convened in February 2024, shares similar duties and objectives as those outlined for the proposed Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. Given this overlap in responsibilities, we see the creation of a separate commission as redundant and unnecessary.

DoIT also believes that the membership composition of this commission has left out multiple groups who should be involved in oversight and advising state government. Key groups who have been omitted from membership in this group include, academia, civil society and a presence from the executive branch who will have to implement recommendations from this commission.

Furthermore, DoIT has concerns regarding the staffing of the commission by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). The composition of the commission primarily comprises members from the Senate, House of Delegates, private AI sector, and State Board of Education.

Given this focus, it seems more appropriate for the staffing to be handled by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) rather than DoIT. DLS has the expertise and resources to provide impartial support to legislative initiatives, ensuring a more balanced and effective operation of the commission.

In light of these considerations, we strongly urge the bill sponsor to reconsider the need for Senate Bill 1087 and explore alternative avenues for advancing the goals of responsible AI development and oversight in Maryland. Rather than creating a new commission, we should focus on leveraging existing structures and collaborations to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in this critical area.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Information Technology respectfully requests a un-favorable report on Senate Bill 1087.

Best,

Katie Olson Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology