

Statement of Subcommittee Member Lori Trahan
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

Hearing on “AI Regulation and the Future of US Leadership”

May 21, 2025

I thank the Ranking Member for yielding.

Under Republican leadership, this committee has failed time and time again to protect Americans’ privacy and safeguard our children online.

GOP leaders have blocked whistleblower protections for tech workers who risk their livelihoods to shine a light on their employers’ privacy abuses.

They killed comprehensive privacy legislation to minimize data collection and ensure proper use.

They said no to simple transparency legislation so independent auditors could make sure Big Tech companies aren’t breaking the law.

But what Republican members of this committee DID find time to do last week – in the middle of the night by the way...

Is force through an unprecedented giveaway to the tech industry: A ten-year ban on state laws that could make AI safer for our constituents.

Make no mistake – the families who have come to this committee and begged for us to act won’t benefit from this proposal...

But you know who will?

The Big Tech CEOs who were sitting behind Donald Trump at his inauguration.

Now we can agree that a patchwork of various state laws is not good for innovation, for business, or consumers. But this is a bad policy because it sets another disincentive for us to act urgently, or in time.

Republicans are once again ceding Congress’s duty to protect Americans’ privacy to the very companies who are perpetrating the worst abuses online.

You’re inviting the fox into the hen house.

And you’re doing so under the justification that this will somehow motivate Congress to unify the patchwork of state laws currently in existence.

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But that hasn't happened yet.

Just look at what happened to the privacy bill we crafted together on this committee.

The moment that Big Tech started lobbying against it, the Republican Speaker and the Majority Leader caved.

They killed the bill.

And now you turn around and try to deceive the American people into accepting this ridiculous alternative?

News flash: Our constituents aren't stupid.

They want real action from us to rein in the abuses of tech companies...

Not to give them blanket immunity to abuse our most sensitive data even more.

At the same time, our Republican colleagues are complaining about Europe's tech laws – which we can acknowledge are imperfect...

But at least they had the guts to do something – literally anything to make the internet better for the folks they represent.

Shame on us if we don't answer the same demands from the American people.

I urge my colleagues to reject this giveaway to the same Big Tech companies that have stymied every attempt at updating our privacy laws.

Vote no on the partisan reconciliation bill when the same leaders who killed our bipartisan privacy legislation bring it to the floor.

Let's get to work to foster innovation and protect our constituents with sensible guardrails on big tech.

Thank you. I yield back.