

November 24, 2025

**The Honorable John Thune**

Majority Leader  
United States Senate

**The Honorable Chuck Schumer**

Minority Leader  
United States Senate

**The Honorable Mike Johnson**

Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries**

Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, Leaders Schumer and Jeffries,

As faith leaders committed to ethical technology policy, we write with deep concern regarding, and in opposition to, the proposed preemption measure on state regulation of artificial intelligence (AI), and including such a provision in the current National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) package or any other legislative vehicle.

We believe this is a pivotal moment not only for our nation's technological future but for our moral imagination. The development of AI is not simply a question of markets and machines—it is both a human and moral question: What are the impacts, benefits, and dangers to the dignity of work, human intellect, the nature of truth, the boundaries of consent, and the social compact we share as neighbors and citizens?

At its best, democratic governance holds sacred the principle that those closest to a community are often best positioned to discern its needs. Our Founders wanted the federal government to share power with state governments, not subjugate them. Throughout our history, states and localities have played a vital role in protecting the American public and piloting innovations in commerce, education, the general welfare, and the common good. From consumer protections to educational reform, states have often led the way in shaping responsible policy, working alongside the federal government to pilot solutions, refine approaches, and uphold the values of their communities. These experiments in state-level policy innovation may one day provide a foundation for national policies. The proposed moratorium on state regulation of AI would undermine that foundational principle.

Such a prohibition would not create order. It would create silence—locking out communities of faith and conscience, local lawmakers, and civil society voices from shaping how AI impacts our schools, courts, hospitals, and homes. This approach risks not only leaving the governance of AI to be determined primarily by the interests of large tech actors but also removing the power of the American people, through their elected representatives, to pursue morally sound policy decisions.

This concern becomes even more acute in light of previous efforts to pass a preemption measure earlier this year, which was voted down 99-1. Efforts to circumvent our democratic processes by slipping this provision into must-pass legislation like the NDAA are not how wise and effective public policy is made.

If we truly value competition, innovation, and American leadership in technology, then we must resist the temptation to centralize power in the hands of a few. We support a strong federal framework that protects the American public—especially children, families, and the workforce—from the worst abuses of AI. But such a framework must be rooted in wisdom and designed to strengthen—not supplant—the ability of states to lead with integrity and care.

This means:

- Safeguarding children from predatory digital environments;
- Protecting individuals from the use of AI to produce non-consensual intimate/pornographic imagery;
- Defending workers from opaque, exploitative algorithmic decision-making;
- And upholding the rights of states to explore and pilot thoughtful, values-rooted policies that serve their people.

We do not fear AI, but neither do we worship it. Like fire, language, or law, AI is a tool to be stewarded wisely. The call before Congress is neither to halt progress nor unleash chaos—it is to ensure that the digital age reflects our deepest values, not just our fastest capabilities.

We strongly urge you to oppose preemption on state AI regulation and reject any future efforts to tie states' hands. This is a moment for wisdom —not control. The future of ethical innovation depends on it.

In faith and in hope,

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