

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

September 25th, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for gathering for the 17th annual Washington State Academy of Sciences Symposium, “AI for Washington State: Using Artificial Intelligence to explore, discover, and understand”. Thank you to the Washington State Academy of Sciences for hosting this event, and to the keynote speakers, panelists, and attendees for taking part in these conversations about the future applications of AI in industries critical to Washington State including climate, agriculture, and healthcare.

AI is developing rapidly -- from breakthroughs in neural-networks to advances in algorithms and growing computing power. It is already emerging as an important tool to accelerate scientific discovery and to drive research and development in industries critical to Washington State. As Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, I am working to ensure that Washington and the United States remain global leaders on AI. This Congress, I have introduced a series of bipartisan bills to accomplish this goal. The Future of AI Innovation Act authorizes the AI Safety Institute within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to promote the development of science-based and empirically backed AI guidelines and standards, to create rigorous assessments for advanced AI models and systems, and to advance measurement science to ensure AI reliability. It would also create joint testbeds among our national laboratories, NIST and the National Science Foundation. Some testbeds would evaluate the most complex AI models while others would be aimed at synthesizing and testing new materials and making new scientific discoveries.

The NSF AI Education Act would will create new undergraduate and graduate level scholarships for the study of AI and quantum hybrid computing, and create new opportunities for professional development for educators and those in STEM fields. The Small Business Training Act would help small businesses leverage AI in their operations through providing training resources and tools. The Senate Commerce Committee also advanced another bipartisan bill, the CREATE AI Act to authorize the National Science Foundation’s National AI Research Resource to broaden U.S. researchers’ access resources to fully participate in AI research and development.

I am proud to represent a state that has and will continue to lead in emerging technologies. I will continue to work in Congress to promote the public private collaboration and the focus on science and technological innovation that we need to keep the U.S. in competitive for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M".

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator