Office of State Representative Daniel Loc Nguyen
House District 38

February 7, 2024
Testimony in support of HB 4153

Co-Chair Nathanson, Co-Chair Woods and members of the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology,

For the record my name is Daniel Nguyen and I am the State Representative for House District 38. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4153 and the need for a standardized set of AI terminology in crafting legislation. AI, in its essence, represents the development of computer systems capable of performing tasks that traditionally require human intelligence. This includes learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, language understanding, and decision-making. AI's presence in our life is everywhere – financial services, smart cars, digital assistants, e-commerce, healthcare, law enforcement, entertainment, social apps, education, business, government, workforce – we can see it and we don't see it.

While there are some federal authorities enforcing existing consumer protection laws and safeguards against fraud, unintended bias, discrimination, and infringements on privacy, regulation is still in its early stages. States are also looking at AI legislation. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least 25 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia introduced artificial intelligence bills, and 18 states and Puerto Rico adopted resolutions or enacted legislation.

Currently, I have been told by LPRO there are no definitions for artificial intelligence currently in state statute. Without a standardized vocabulary utilized by policy makers and industry professionals, miscommunication and misunderstanding can arise. For example, when I say "blue", some of you may think turquoise and some of you may think navy, but I am thinking pale blue. A mismatch in language can result in vague or overly broad regulations, creating uncertainty for businesses and stifling investment in AI. It may also lead to unintended consequences, as regulations designed to address one aspect of AI may inadvertently impact other facets, hindering the technology's responsible development.

To avoid such pitfalls, HB 4153 creates a task force allowing legislators to engage in a collaborative effort with industry experts, researchers, and other stakeholders to establish a shared vocabulary. HB 4153 brings those parties together, along with the legislature's Legislative Policy and Research Office directing the task force to start with terms and definitions already in use by the U.S. government.

We also cannot ignore the ethical concerns and potential biases in AI systems. HB 4153 provides for a representative who has expertise in ethics and technology. I would also like to add here that this morning the Oregon Judicial Department has requested to be part of this task force in an effort to ensure the judiciary and legislative branches of government are working synergistically. I am supportive of an amendment to this effect.

As we stand at the precipice of this technological revolution, we have an opportunity for this legislative body to establish a common understanding of AI terms and definitions to serve as a foundation for effective AI regulation. This effort will position our state as a leader in responsible AI governance, fostering innovation while safeguarding the interests and well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4153. I urge your passage and would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Daniel Loc Nguyen
State Representative