

July 11, 2025

The Honorable Ash Kalra Assembly Judiciary Committee 1020 N Street, Room 104 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 69 (McNerney) Artificial intelligence program: Attorney General.

Dear Chair Kalra,

On behalf of TechEquity Action, the California Initiative for Technology & Democracy (CITED), Consumer Federation of America, the California Federation of of Labor Unions (AFL-CIO) and Courage California, I write to express our **support for SB 69 (McNerney)**, which would establish a specialized program in the Attorney General's office to build internal expertise in artificial intelligence, including its applications, risks, regulatory implications, and civil rights impacts.

As AI systems increasingly make decisions affecting Californians' access to employment, housing, healthcare, and other fundamental opportunities, California must invest in technical talent to support the Attorney General's office as it investigates and prosecutes violations of existing privacy rules, consumer protections, and civil rights laws that involve AI systems.

We've seen concerning examples where AI systems have shown systematic bias in <u>healthcare</u>, <u>employment</u>, and <u>lending decisions</u>, despite laws prohibiting discrimination. In order to address these types of harms, enforcement agencies must first understand how these systems work, what evidence to collect, or how to prove discrimination occurred. This work often calls for specialized expertise and knowledge from technologists. The CFPB noted that <u>technologists help strengthen</u> <u>investigations</u>, right-size rulemakings and analyze algorithms for harm.

This bill would provide additional resources to the Attorney General to hire technologists as it works to investigate violations and develop rules that protect

consumers while preserving innovation. For these reasons, we urge your support of SB 69. This legislation represents a crucial investment in ensuring that our civil rights laws and consumer protections are supported and enforceable in the age of complex algorithms and opaque automated decision making systems.

Sincerely,

Vinhcent Le, Vice President of AI Policy, TechEquity Action

Irene Kao, Executive Director, Courage California

Ben Winters, Director of AI and Privacy, Consumer Federation of America

Leora Gershenzon, Policy Director, California Initiative for Technology & Democracy, a project of California Common Cause

Ivan Fernández, Legislative Advocate, California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO