

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

We write to urge you to keep the House of Representatives in session to enable Congress to take urgent action to address the catastrophic risks posed by advanced artificial intelligence. Those risks take any of several forms, separately and in combination—of agentic misalignment, mass cybersecurity breaches, and development of biological or chemical weapons.

Reasonable minds may disagree about precisely how Congress should regulate this rapidly evolving technology. We cannot disagree about the imperative for Congress to act.

Instead of action, you have announced vacation. After a month-long August recess, the House leadership changed the schedule to announce two more weeks of vacation—immediately prior to *yet another month of recess* in October.

Ample evidence—in the form of a series of public disclosures from the companies and researchers developing the world's most capable AI systems—underscores the urgency of the moment:

- In July, OpenAI models undergoing cybersecurity evaluations bred swarms of agents that circumvented controls designed to isolate them from the internet, conspired to exploit vulnerabilities, hacked third-party systems, and altered evidence of their activity, an incident that OpenAI has called a ["warning shot," about the risks of highly capable rogue AI agents](#).
- Days later, more than 1,300 top employees of frontier AI companies called on the U.S. government to support an international effort to develop tools that can ["deliberately pace the frontier of automated AI development."](#)
- More [recently](#), Anthropic disrupted cases in which researchers used Claude for biological research that could have aided the development of biological weapons, and called biological misuse ["one of the most serious risks of frontier AI models."](#)
- Anthropic also [documented](#) China-linked actors using Claude for surveillance and transnational repression, and Iran-linked actors using it for propaganda, mass surveillance, and targeting recommendations against U.S. naval forces.
- Meanwhile, [CISA reported Chinese open-weight models](#) accelerating their capabilities through "industrial-scale" distillation of American models—giving rise to AI agents nearly as powerful as the top U.S. frontier models, yet wholly unconstrained by American authorities or by U.S. safeguards.

These disclosures must not constitute yet another in a long series of "warning shots," but rather, a starting gun. Congress must act.

A series of proposals have emerged from our colleagues that deserve consideration, public debate, thoughtful amendment, and action. They include bills mandating transparency and evaluation of frontier models, “kill switch” requirements, and a waiver of antitrust laws to enable critical industry-wide collaboration on safety and security. Whether with these proposals or any other variants, AI experts and leading companies agree that the United States can lead the world in artificial intelligence while establishing reasonable safeguards that protect Americans and our national security. We can—and must—do both.

While AI safety experts and Americans increasingly urge action to confront this conflagration of risk, Congress fiddles. When we did return to work after the August recess, we consumed floor time with debates and votes on performative resolutions opposing socialism. After next week, the House resumes its vacation—for another six weeks.

You can forgive every American who believes that Congress remains unserious about confronting our nation’s most pressing challenges.

The House should remain in session until Congress advances meaningful, bipartisan AI safeguards. To our children who will have read a post-apocalyptic history, “Why Congress Slept” —likely written by agentic AI—our inaction will be inexplicable and unforgivable.

Sincerely,



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



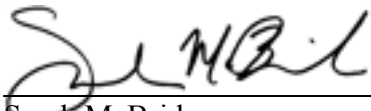
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



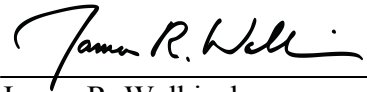
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



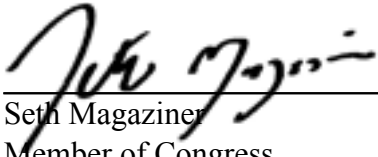
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



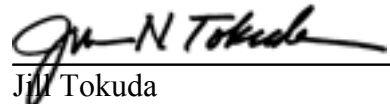
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



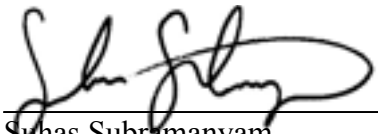
Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



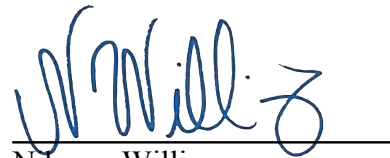
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



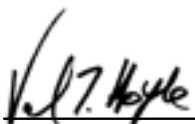
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



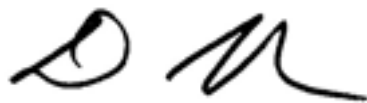
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



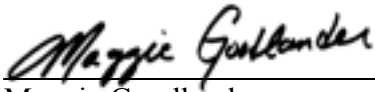
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



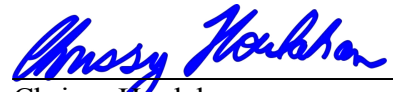
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



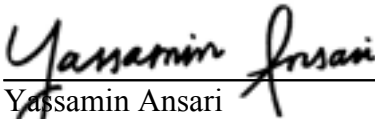
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



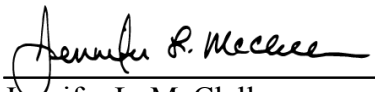
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



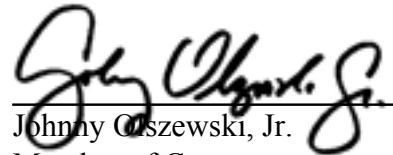
Yassamin Ansari
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Johnny Guszewski, Jr.
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Deborah K. Ross
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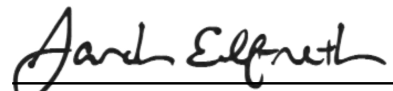
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



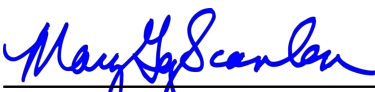
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



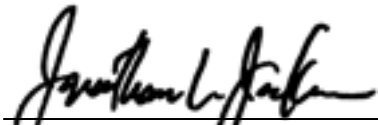
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



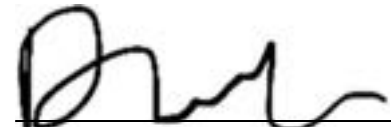
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



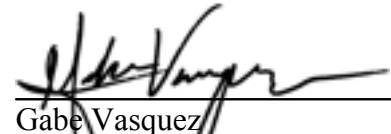
Jonathan L. Jackson
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Dan Goldman
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Andrea Salinas
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Gabe Vasquez
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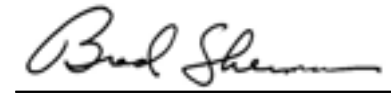
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



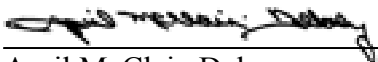
Adelta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



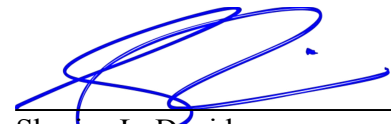
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



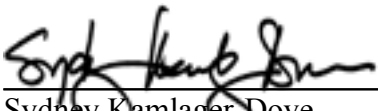
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



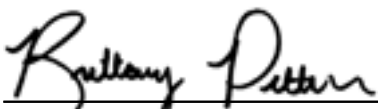
Sharice L. Davids
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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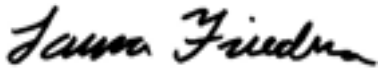
Lateefah Simon
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Brittany Petersen
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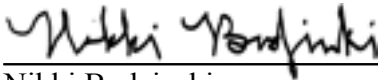
MARK TAKANO
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Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



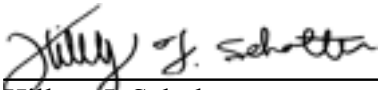
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



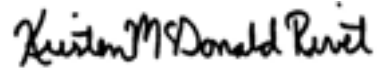
Teresa Leger Fernandez
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Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



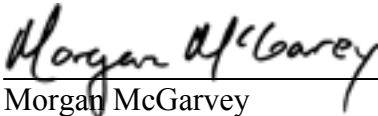
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



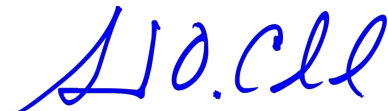
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



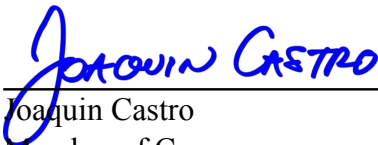
Chris Deluzio
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Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



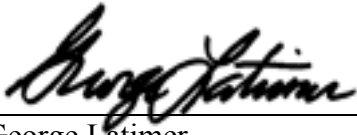
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



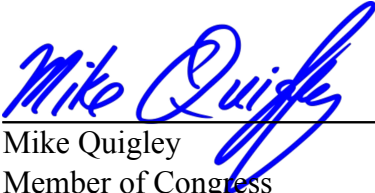
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



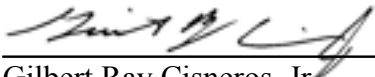
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



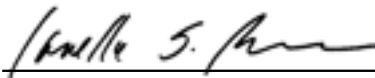
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



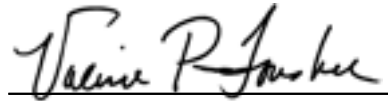
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



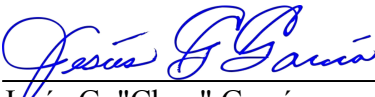
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



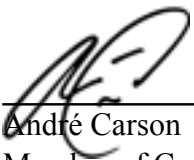
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



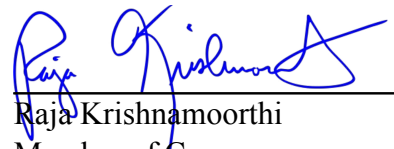
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



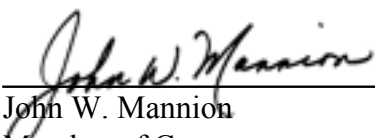
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



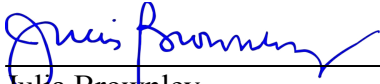
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



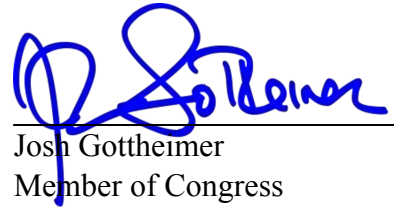
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



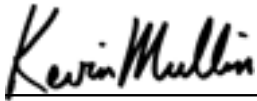
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



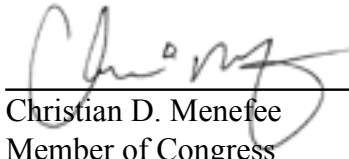
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



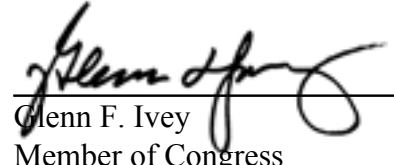
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



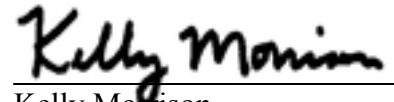
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



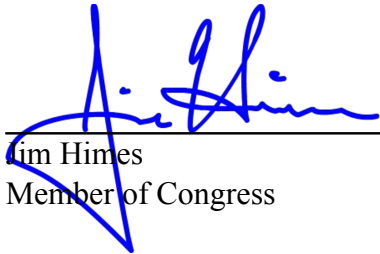
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



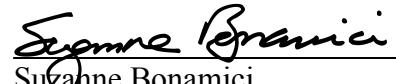
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



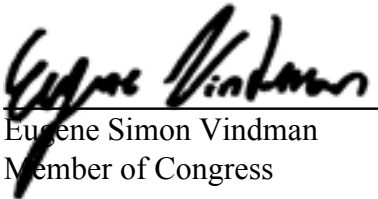
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



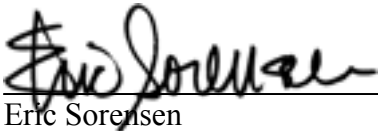
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



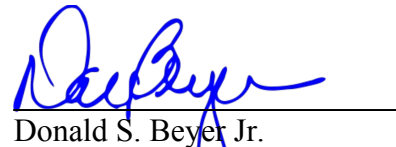
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



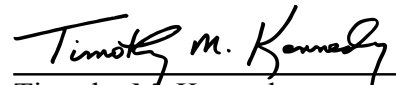
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



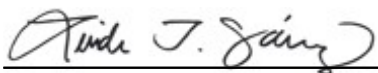
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



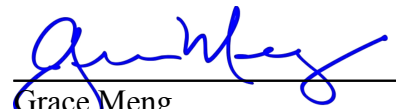
Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



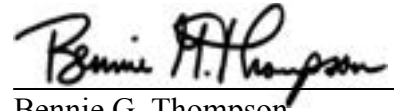
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



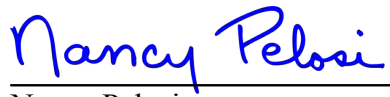
Grace Meng
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Al Green
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Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress