April 17, 2025

Dear California lawmakers:

As scholars, researchers, and thought leaders who have dedicated our lives to the research of artificial intelligence, technology policy, and governance, we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 813. Drawing on decades of collective research and experience across related fields, we believe that the framework outlined in this legislation is a novel and promising approach to ensuring that advanced AI systems can be an engine for innovation while also ensuring that California can mitigate the risk of real-world harm to persons and property.

Advanced AI technology is ever-changing, which makes it incredibly difficult to envision the technology's nearly infinite future capabilities or to forecast exactly when those capabilities will come online. This dynamic complicates traditional government agencies' ability to regulate this important technology. However, the pace of innovation does not obviate the need for sensible guardrails. To the contrary, the pace of AI innovation proves that our society needs creative approaches to governance that allow the technology to flourish and ensure widespread adoption based on trust and legal and regulatory clarity.

SB 813 is the first-of-its-kind AI governance framework that is both nimble and built upon proven regulatory models that will continue to spur innovation *and* incentivize AI platforms to comply with state-of-the-art requirements to identify, monitor, and mitigate known, foreseeable risks. By establishing a "third-way" governing model, independent experts will be able to devise strong safety standards that also promote innovation while still being accountable to government leaders. This legislation harnesses the benefits of AI while also curbing its potential excesses.

SB 813 would create third-party assessments and safety standards developed by independent multi-stakeholder regulatory organizations, or MROs. The MROs will be made up of independent subject matter experts, civil society leaders, and industry leaders accredited by the California Attorney General's Office to identify, develop, and evolve best practices for AI development. The system is entirely voluntary, and those developers who wish to opt in receive tangible benefits, including certain legal protections under state law. This model is particularly effective, and has been used before when groundbreaking technologies begin to change the American landscape. It will also bring more transparency to the AI industry, as the safety standards developed will be made public. This proposed structure is critically important and incentivizes developers who opt in, allowing everyone to be part of the solution.

Many of us agree that more has to be done to prepare for a world shaped by AI, though we may disagree on what those policies should be. However, we all agree that SB 813 stands out as the most responsive, well-designed model yet, able to adapt and evolve over time with the underlying technology.

SB 813 is a pragmatic approach to AI governance that advances critical safety standards while preserving innovation for current and future developers. The evidence-based framework outlined will help keep residents safe and help California maintain its position as a global leader in AI development.

Yours sincerely,

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