CRA
Computing Research
Association

March 13, 2020

Statement of the Computing Research Association
on
H.R. 6216, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020

The Computing Research Association commends the House Science, Space and Technology Committee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) for introducing bipartisan legislation that will significantly bolster the U.S. AI research ecosystem and help America continue to lead innovations in AI. The National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 sends a powerful message that support for Federal investments in fundamental research, especially in key areas like AI, crosses party lines. We appreciate that the committee looked to stakeholders in industry, academia and government when drafting this legislation to understand and address issues that were likely to constrain progress in AI, including input from community-led research roadmapping efforts.

The institutes and resources enabled by this act will help create a robust environment for AI research in the U.S., and it will provide a key strategic advantage over our competitors around the world. The provisions concerning workforce and education will help our citizenry take advantage of that research, and the strong focus on ethics, safety, security, and equal opportunity will help produce AI for the good of society.

We thank Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, and original co-sponsors Rep. McNerney (D-CA), Rep. Olson (R-TX), Rep. Lipinski (D-IL) and Rep. Weber (R-TX) for their continued support of Federal investments in fundamental computing research and look forward to helping pass this legislation.