H.R. 6216, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020

H.R. 6216 establishes a federal initiative to accelerate and coordinate Federal investments and facilitate new public-private partnerships in research, standards, and education in artificial intelligence in order to ensure the United States leads the world in the development and use of trustworthy artificial intelligence systems. The legislation will:

- Formalize interagency coordination and strategic planning efforts in AI research, development, standards, and education through an Interagency Coordination Committee and a coordination office managed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).
- Create an advisory committee to better inform the Coordination Committee's strategic plan, track the state of the science around artificial intelligence, and ensure the Initiative is meeting its goals.
- Create a network of AI institutes, coordinated through the National Science Foundation, that any Federal department of agency could fund to create partnerships between the academia and the public and private sectors to accelerate AI research focused on an economic sector, social sector, or on a cross-cutting AI challenge.
- Support basic AI measurement research and standards development at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and require NIST to create a framework for managing risks associated with AI systems and best practices for sharing data to advance trustworthy AI systems.
- Support research at the National Science Foundation (NSF) across a wide variety of AI related research areas to both improve AI systems and use those systems to advance other areas of science. This section requires NSF to include an obligation for an ethics statement for all research proposals to ensure researchers are considering, and as appropriate, mitigating potential societal risks in carrying out their research.
- Support education and workforce development in AI and related fields, including through scholarships and traineeships at NSF.
- Support AI research and development efforts at the Department of Energy (DOE), utilize DOE computing infrastructure for AI challenges, promote technology transfer, data sharing, and coordination with other Federal agencies, and require an ethics statement for DOE funded research as required at NSF.
- Require studies to better understand workforce impacts and opportunities created by AI, and identify the computing resources necessary to ensure the United States remains competitive in AI.