



The International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Statement of The International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Subcommittee Hearing on:
Building an AI-Ready America:
Understanding AI's Economic Impact on Workers and Employers

April 15, 2026

On behalf of the 1.3 million Teamsters around the country, I'm submitting this letter for the record to the Committee on Education & Workforce in response to the hearing held on April 15, 2026, entitled, *Building an AI-Ready America: Understanding AI's Economic Impact on Workers and Employers*.

Teamsters are no strangers to the evolving role of technology in the workplace. Over the union's 123-year history, our members led the cause of workers' rights through the advent and popularization of the combustible engine, the airplane, and the internet. Artificial intelligence (AI) represents a similarly pivotal technological frontier, with companies already incorporating it into workplaces around the country, and the Teamsters represent hundreds of thousands of workers who are directly impacted. In certain industries, and when used correctly, AI has the capacity to enhance and augment work, as well as the potential to result in broad economic growth. As with so many technological developments over time, however, it is imperative that AI functions as a tool for the worker — not as a job replacement.

Further, worker dignity must be protected. In the strongest possible terms, Teamsters oppose attempts by corporations to use AI to collect personal data from workers without their understanding or consent, to surveil workers and issue automatic evaluations, or to serve as key decision-makers in personnel and disciplinary matters. AI must never stand in for a manager: humans must be able to talk to other humans directly without having to go through a chatbot. Congress must act decisively to protect workers from these and other AI-related harms, to ensure the future of fulfilling work, and to guarantee that workers — not billionaires — will be the ones who benefit from AI-related economic growth.

However, as federal legislators debate the best ways to regulate the industry, the Teamsters strongly object to any efforts designed to preempt states from taking proactive measures towards protecting workers. That's why the Teamsters led the charge in beating back attempts to include a 10-year moratorium on state regulatory actions on AI, encompassing all industries and workplaces, including the development and deployment of autonomous vehicles in last year's Reconciliation fight. Proponents of the moratorium argue that it protects states' innovation and keeps America competitive with global actors. Don't be fooled by this suggestion. If enacted, efforts like this one would simply extinguish local control, allowing corporations to maximize their profits and escape market accountability.

It comes as no surprise that some of the biggest supporters of moratoriums like this one, or to state preemption more broadly, are tech billionaires. Meanwhile, opposition to state preemption is found on both sides of the aisle. A wide coalition, including 40 state attorneys general, 260 state lawmakers, 17 Republican governors, and 140 advocacy groups all agree a moratorium is wrong. The people also agree. A recent Gallup survey found that 80 percent of U.S. adults believe the government should maintain rules for AI safety and data security. People want AI to be used in ways that are safe, fair and accountable. They want innovation they can actually trust, not a rush to strip away all safeguards. In the absence of federal regulations that workers need, states are best positioned to act on this mandate.

With our large and diverse membership, the Teamsters are uniquely positioned to understand both the desire for and the threats inherent to AI in the workplace. In this moment, when working conditions, worker dignity, and jobs themselves are on the line, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters stands firmly opposed to efforts that silence states and undermine existing protections. Rather, Congressional Members must prioritize workers and their livelihoods at the federal level. Workers — not CEOs and wealthy shareholders — must be the primary beneficiaries of this ever-evolving technology, and they must also be protected from the dangerous and unnecessary risks associated with it. We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to work with legislators of all parties to realize this vision.