

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

BILL FOSTER
11th District of Illinois
<http://foster.house.gov>

2366 Rayburn
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3515

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**Written Statement Submitted to the House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform**

*Full Committee Member Day Hearing
Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Requesting Support for the Responsible and Ethical AI Labeling (REAL) Act

Dear Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Garcia, and Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

I write to request your support for H.R. 6571, the Responsible and Ethical AI Labeling Act, or the REAL Act, which will require government agencies and officers to include a disclaimer on public-facing communications that are created or generated with artificial intelligence (AI). I was happy to introduce this common-sense bipartisan bill with the support of the Chairman of the Government Operations Subcommittee, Congressman Pete Sessions of Texas. Before discussing the details of this legislation, I want to thank Congressman Sessions for his partnership on this bill that will strengthen trust and accountability in government communications while promoting responsible innovation at federal agencies.

The REAL Act is a bipartisan bill that would require federal agencies and officers, from low-level agency employees to the President of the United States, to clearly label any content distributed through official government channels that are generated or manipulated using generative artificial intelligence. Specifically, it would require federal agencies and officers to label any AI-generated images, audio, or videos, or any AI-generated text that is not reviewed by a human prior to publication. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be tasked with developing uniform rules for labeling AI content across agencies to ensure that the labels are clear, prominently displayed, and written in plain language that is easily understandable to the public. Each label will clearly inform the reader that the content was manipulated with AI and include a brief description of how the content was changed and which tools were used.

The bill includes certain exceptions meant to promote the internal use of AI tools by federal agencies, and to protect the private, personal communications of federal officers. First, agencies will not be required to label AI content that is circulated internally and not intended for public release. Second, content that is created for classified purposes will not require labeling, however, agencies will be required to label classified content upon any unclassified release of the content. Third, the bill exempts the use of basic graphics and visual, such as text overlay or formatting, and minor visual adjustments, such as brightness or cropping, if those adjustments do not materially alter the meaning or context of the underlying content. Fourth, the use of efficiency improving text drafting tools is exempt, if the content is reviewed for accuracy by agency staff prior to publication. This is meant to preserve internal use of AI by agencies, while ensuring a

robust standard of review and requiring labeling for automated messaging systems, like chatbots. Importantly, this bill does not apply any of the bill's requirements to public-facing content that is not related to the official duties of a federal officer, if it is published using a personal, non-government social media account or other non-official medium.

This bill also includes clear guidelines to correct communications that fail to include the appropriate label or otherwise violate the REAL Act. If an agency determines or is found to have issued a communication in violation of the Act, that agency will be required to retract the communication and publish a corrected version of the communication on their website and, to the extent possible, to the same audience that received the initial communication. This bill also includes appropriate penalties for noncompliance by agencies and contractors, including remediation plans and potential oversight by the Government Accountability Office.

In the age of disinformation, Americans should be able to trust that information coming from official government sources is legitimate and based in reality. With the rapid proliferation of AI-generated content, there must be clear guidelines to ensure those at our federal agencies and in our nation's highest office are not using AI in a way that could purposefully or inadvertently mislead the American public. This legislation is about ensuring transparency and trust in federal communications. This bill does not prohibit the use of AI or the distribution of AI content; it simply requires official channels to identify whether the content they are sharing has been created or altered using AI.

Thank you for holding this Member Day hearing, and thank you again to Congressman Sessions for joining me in leading this effort. I encourage members of this committee to consider supporting and advancing the REAL Act, which will ensure that AI tools are responsibly used in government communications.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Overview of the Responsible and Ethical AI Labeling (REAL) Act

Introduced by Reps. Bill Foster (D-IL) and Pete Sessions (R-TX) on Dec. 10, 2025

Summary: This legislation requires any federal agency or official that publishes text, image, audio, or video created or manipulated with artificial intelligence (AI) to include a disclaimer indicating that the content has been generated or manipulated with AI when making the content available to the public. The bill preserves the ability to utilize these technologies internally, and in public communications, while ensuring that such content is shared with the public in a clear and consistent manner.

Overview

A bill to require federal agencies to disclose the use of AI-generated content in their publication

Section 1. Short Title

- “The Responsible and Ethical AI Labeling (REAL) Act of 2025

Section 2. Disclosure of Content Created or Manipulated Using Generative Artificial Intelligence.

Disclosure requirement

- A federal agency may not publish or disseminate any content created with the assistance of generative artificial intelligence unless the publication includes a clear disclaimer containing a brief explanation of the technology used to generate or manipulate the content.
- The disclosure requirement does not apply to:
 - Any content within the agency not intended for public release;
 - Content created for a classified purpose, if the disclaimer is held by the agency and released to the public, consistent with this Act, if the content is later declassified and published;
 - Content that includes basic graphics (ie. informative graphics or formatting), or minor adjustments to visual media (ie. brightness, contrast, or cropping) that do not materially alter the meaning or context of the content, and;
 - Textual drafts or other text-based content prepared with generative text drafting software that is reviewed by the agency staff prior to publication.
(this provision exempts content that is drafted with AI and reviewed by a human, but does not exempt automated chatbots).

Enforcement

- OMB will draft rules to implement this framework uniformly across agencies.
- Each year, the head of each agency or office shall report to Congress and make public a report that details the agency's compliance with this Act.
- If the agency or the Government Accountability Office determines that an agency has published content in violation of this act, the agency shall:
 - Retract such content and issue a corrected publication that is compliant with this Act on the agency's website, and to the extent possible, distribute the corrected publication to the same audience as the initial publication.

Penalties for Non-Compliance

- If GAO or the Inspector General of the agency finds that an agency has issued a publication violating this act, the head of the agency shall submit a corrective action plan to OMB and Congress within 30 days.
- If the agency does not submit a corrective action plan under the last provision, GAO shall review the internal controls of the agency and issue corrective actions that the agency must take within 30 days.
- Any federal employee or contractor found to have violated this act may face appropriate disciplinary action. In the case of contractors, they may face restrictions on public-facing communications, contract termination, or other corrective action, as determined by the contracting agency.

Definitions

- "Agency" has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, USC, and includes the Executive Office of the President.
- "Federal Official" means:
 - The President or the Vice President; and
 - Any officer or employee of an agency.
- "Generative Artificial Intelligence" means any algorithmic system that uses parameters derived from previously observed or generated data to non-deterministically create or modify digital content, including but not limited to text, image, video, sound, or any combination thereof.