

**Responses to Additional Questions for the Record of Asad Ramzanali**

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Hearing on  
*AI in the Everyday: Current Applications and Future Frontiers in Communications and  
Technology*  
before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
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**The Honorable Doris Matsui**

**Question 1. AI will transform next-generation wireless communications, so we must be proactive and convene our best and brightest to map the road ahead.**

**Mr. Ramzanali, what are the biggest challenges to America’s ability to attract and retain top AI talent?**

Response:

A major part of how America became the world’s AI leader has been our ability to attract the world’s best researchers to American companies, universities, and labs. Consider just a few examples. Of the so-called global AI godfathers (Bengio, Hinton, LeCun) and godmother (Li), each has had affiliations with U.S. universities and companies, but none was born in the U.S. Of the 42 companies on the 2025 Forbes “AI 50” list of top startups, 60% have at least one co-founder, according to the Institute for Progress. Among large American AI companies, immigrants co-founded or currently serve as CEO of OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Microsoft, Nvidia, Intel, AMD, and more.

However, our competitiveness faces two major, interconnected challenges. First, declining federal R&D investment, along with cuts to universities and research labs, undermines our ability to attract and retain researchers. When research funding declines, there are fewer positions for researchers, and top researchers are less interested in pursuing their work with smaller budgets. As this Administration cuts federal R&D funding, the People’s Republic of China is actively increasing its R&D investments. Without robust public R&D investment, the U.S. risks losing its edge in innovation.

Second, America’s leadership in AI has long relied on our ability to attract international talent. This Administration’s recent immigration actions—such as increased restrictions and uncertainty—discourage talented individuals from coming to and staying in the U.S. These trends not only discourage top researchers from coming to the U.S.; there is increasing evidence that the U.S. is already experiencing a “brain drain” as top talent leaves for better opportunities abroad.

To sustain American AI leadership, we must recommit to robust federal R&D investments in research and higher education, and we must create a welcoming and predictable environment for international researchers and students. This means reversing the trends of the current Administration and going further. Congress could, for example, create a new category for STEM green cards, as recommended by the National Academies in its report, “International Talent Programs in the Changing Global Environment.”

**Question 2. To lead the world in AI, America needs fast, reliable, and future proof networks to power AI-driven data centers, networks, and homes.**

**Mr. Ramzanali, how should this administration carry out BEAD and other broadband programs, if it’s actually serious about promoting American AI leadership?**

Response:

America can’t lead in AI unless all Americans can access and benefit from AI. Federal programs for improving broadband access and affordability, including BEAD, must move forward without further delay or uncertainty as they are critical to moving toward closing the digital divide, supporting innovation, and enabling participation in economic opportunities involving AI. I understand that the Administration has updated its guidance and plans to restart implementation of BEAD. Continued investment that prioritizes fiber—since it is future-proof, high-speed, reliable, and scalable—is critical to ensuring rural and marginalized Americans do not remain on the wrong side of the digital divide.

**Question 3. Digital literacy is a stepping stone for AI literacy and adoption.**

**Mr. Ramzanali, how would this administration’s attempt to eliminate digital equity funding impact our AI leadership, including the administration’s supposed goals to advance AI education and workforce development opportunities?**

Response: Digital equity programs are essential to advancing AI education and workforce development. Without them, countless Americans will lack the foundational digital literacy needed to benefit from and participate in the economic, cultural, governmental, and other opportunities created by AI. Eliminating digital equity funding widens the digital divide, undermines workforce readiness, and limits access to the skills required in an AI-powered economy. AI literacy builds on digital literacy, and abandoning these investments would directly contradict efforts to prepare Americans for the future of work and civic life. In short, digital equity is not just a matter of fairness—it is essential for maintaining American leadership in AI.