

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**

**Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce Ranking Member Jan D. Schakowsky**

***Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee Hearing on “Safeguarding Data and Innovation: Building the Foundation for the Use of Artificial Intelligence”***

**October 18, 2023**

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is transforming our lives from healthcare to Hollywood. The fuel for this innovation is consumers’ data. Consumers feel helpless online, and AI is only making it worse. Americans should have a say in how their data is used to create AI.

That’s where privacy comes in. Protecting consumers’ data privacy is fundamental to guaranteeing AI benefits all Americans. Responsible use of AI starts with the responsible use of data.

In a bipartisan way this committee has made progress. Last Congress, we overwhelmingly passed out of this committee a comprehensive data privacy bill. We did our job and got close, but we didn’t get across the finish line. Consumers still have no data privacy protections. AI is only making consumers more vulnerable.

We continue to see consumers being harmed by irresponsible use of their data. AI chat bots have leaked sensitive private information like phone numbers, credit cards, and birthdays. Discriminatory algorithms have kept Black hospital patients from receiving the care they need. Actors have fought to keep their faces and voices from being taken and used without their consent. Scammers are running that old scam pretending to be your loved one but now are using AI to sound like them. A scammer needs as little as 3 seconds of your voice to clone it. At the root of the harm these consumers experienced is their data.

We must protect Americans from these dangers with comprehensive federal data privacy legislation. This must be the foundation we build upon to regulate AI. At the same time, companies that use AI must be held responsible. They must be made to comply with laws already on the books that protect Americans’ civil rights and outlaw deception and fraud. AI only makes the need for privacy legislation more urgent.

Let’s get this done to protect consumers and the American people. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle on federal data privacy legislation.

I yield back.