Answers to Questions for the Record from Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA) from Dr. David Bray

Q1. There has been a lot of coverage of potential dangers that AI technology could present. What are examples of the positive advances to humanity that AI represents, and what are the opportunity costs of not striking the right regulatory balance and balance of power between federal and state governments?

Dr. Bray's Answer for the Record:

Bottom Line Up Front: Multiple Artificial Intelligence (AI) methods and applications already are providing demonstrated advances across healthcare, workforce development, and economic competitiveness that the United States cannot afford to miss scaling across the nation. Real-world deployments already are reducing hospital stays by multiple days, accelerating job placements by 4x, and extending care to rural populations. The opportunity costs should the U.S. be fragmented by an unclear, difficult to navigate, inconsistent, regulatory patchwork are substantial. Without clear, light-touch federal leadership, we risk creating a patchwork of conflicting state requirements. A fragmented regulatory environment will prevent these benefits from reaching communities across the nation, stifles small to mid-size enterprises, and pushes AI development offshore. We risk ceding U.S. strategic leadership on these important AI-specific transformations. We need to upgrade existing domain-specific laws rather than attempt sweeping new AI-only statutes. We need to simultaneously encourage advancement of the entire U.S. AI industry to include pioneering approaches that advance trustworthiness and reliability, while also ensuring that companies advance solutions consistent with the valued freedoms and human agency that embody "We the People" of the United States.

Table: AI Demonstrated Impact Across Critical Sectors

Sector	Specific AI Application	Quantified Positive Advances	Economic/Social Benefits & Opportunities	Costly Barriers to Scaling Benefits
Healthcare Diagnosis	Aidoc's real-time clinical AI flagging critical findings	3-day ICU stay reduction; 133% increase in critical consultations; 35% radiologist efficiency improvement	Addresses 800,000+ annual deaths from diagnostic errors; $1T+ waste reduction; 60M+ patients served annually	State-by-state medical AI rules fragment deployment across different health systems

Workforce Development	Eightfold AI's skills-based talent matching	75% time-to-hire reduction (45 to 11 days); $12M annual savings; 20,000+ workers placed with opportunities faster	$1T+ GDP uplift projected across workers; 35% more underrepresented talent included in high-growth fields; $2B+ unlocked value across 4,000 deployments	Conflicting state employment AI laws prevent scaling across regions
Remote Care Access	Sword Health's AI-driven digital therapy and Hippocratic AI's multilingual health agents	70-89% completion vs. 30-50% conventional; $3,177 annual savings per member; 38% better post-op outcomes; 360% capacity increase	Rural access expanded; 600,000+ patients served; 8M+ telehealth sessions delivered; clinician shortage mitigation	Telehealth AI licensing varies by state, preventing consistent national deployment

In healthcare, AI is already saving lives. Aidoc's clinical AI platform, with 18 FDA clearances, serves over 60 million patients annually across more than 170 health systems. At HCA Healthcare in Nashville as well as the University of Texas Medical Branch, AI-enabled Pulmonary Embolism Response Team activation reduced ICU stays by up to 3 days. At Cedars-Sinai, AI-augmented triage reduced inpatient length of stay by more than two days for patients with intracranial hemorrhage and pulmonary embolism while improving radiologist efficiency by 35%. Yale New Haven Health achieved a 133% increase in aortic aneurysm consultations and 79% faster surgical repair. At University of Chicago Medicine, AI-enabled analysis methods improved inferior vena cava filter removal rates by 176%. If we do not use AI to enable more effective critical diagnostic decisions, we risk over 800,000 preventable deaths annually and more than $1 trillion in waste in healthcare.

In workforce development, AI links human talent to opportunities faster, strengthening U.S. manufacturing and our supply chains. This is critical in bolstering the resiliency of global value chains which face nearly constant disruption due to multiple factors. Eightfold AI's Talent Intelligence Platform uses deep learning to understand over 1 million skills and titles as well as over 1 billion career trajectories, shifting hiring from credentials to capabilities. A Fortune 100 manufacturing firm employed this solution to reduce time-to-hire by 75%, from 45 to 11 days, saving $12 million annually. In manufacturing, the platform supported U.S. Midwest auto suppliers in reallocating 20,000 workers during supply disruptions, preserving $500 million in regional output. A bank achieved 2.5x faster promotions and 25% higher retention. For national security, the platform matches cleared professionals to roles 50% faster, mitigating shortages in cybersecurity and aerospace. Clients report a 3x to 5x return on investment within the first year, with $2 billion in unlocked value across 4,000 deployments.

In remote care access, AI extends the delivery of care to people in regions previously underserved and improves patient outcomes more effectively than non-AI methods. Sword Health has served more than

600,000 patients worldwide and delivered more than 8 million AI-driven telehealth sessions. Their AI-driven digital physical therapy achieves clinical outcomes equal to or better than high-intensity in-person care, with completion rates of 71 to 89% compared to conventional care's 30 to 50%. Controlled trials show patients achieve 38% better functional outcomes in post-operative rehabilitation. Independent analysis shows average medical cost savings of $3,177 per member annually, resulting in a 3.2x return on investment. In addition, Hippocratic AI's healthcare agents engage patients in 14 languages, conducting multilingual community health assessments that previously took four months in just ten days and achieving 276% increases in survey responses. For one healthcare organization, Hippocratic AI agents provided hypertension education with 60% of previously non-compliant patients recording blood pressure readings during the call helping improve patient health and longer-term outcomes. For Medical Mutual, Hippocratic AI agents enable more frequent check-ins with patients, while maintaining consistent patient engagement, increasing chronic care management capacity for the healthcare provider by 360%.

Should the U.S. be fragmented by an unclear, difficult to navigate, inconsistent, regulatory patchwork, the lost opportunities would compound over time, both due to mounting marginalization due to the gap with AI-enabled capabilities, and due to the inability of researchers and practitioners to focus on new and unmet needs. An inconsistent patchwork across the states would erode U.S. capabilities that benefit our people in multiple sectors by introducing confusion, unclear freedom to innovate, and the sorts of innovation arbitrage that come with vastly varying regulatory frameworks. In healthcare, conflicting state medical AI rules would fragment deployment across health systems, preventing the diagnostic improvements that already address 800,000+ in avoidable annual deaths from errors from helping communities across the country. In workforce development, inconsistent state employment AI laws would prevent skills-based hiring platforms from scaling, blocking the rapid worker reallocation that preserves regional economic output during disruptions from benefitting all 50 States. In remote care access, varying state telehealth AI licensing could restrict digital therapy access for rural populations facing acute clinician shortages nationwide. Fragmentation would likely prevent the improvement benefits that sector-specific AI already provides from reaching communities across the nation, would stifle small to mid-size enterprises unable to navigate a regulatory patchwork, and push important AI development offshore as well as cede U.S. strategic leadership on these important AI-specific transformations.

My recommendations are pragmatic. First, upgrade existing laws like the Privacy Act of 1974 and HIPAA, taking into consideration the speed and scale of AI with a focus on encouraging U.S. AI companies to advance more reliable, trustworthy approaches. Second, assess what light-touch policies ensure private-sector AI efforts advance freedoms consistent with U.S. values, building on Justice Brandeis's concept of a right to be left alone and ensuring we each have choices about when our personal data are (and are not) used by AI systems. Third, hold AI platforms accountable like other businesses, to include respecting both copyright and intellectual property rights, especially as the intellectual property framework matures to better consider modern methods. The goal is a national AI framework that advances U.S. AI leadership while ensuring companies build reliable, trustworthy solutions that reflect our values of freedom, individual choice, and the right to be left alone as "We The People" of this great nation.

Q2. The People's Republic of China (PRC) has used its overcapacity and dominance – many would say in some cases, global monopolies – in key supply chains like steel, rare earth minerals, and batteries to pressure its adversaries and influence geopolitics. How would you assess the risk that the PRC would use a leadership position in AI the same way?

Dr. Bray's Answer for the Record:

Bottom Line Up Front: The PRC's track record leveraging supply chain dominance in steel, rare earth minerals, and batteries provides clear precedent for how it would use AI leadership globally. That precedent is certainly bolstered by their stated focus within PRC's publicly available, forward-looking strategies. This trend represents a systematic approach accelerating over 15 years, exemplified by the August 2025 "AI+" initiative targeting 90% economic integration by 2030 and the July 2025 Global AI Governance Action Plan. The risks are substantial: economic coercion through AI infrastructure dependencies, military advantages, and embedding authoritarian values into global systems. The absence of a comparable U.S. long-term strategy has left us reactive, and in many cases internally inconsistent. My assessment, informed by work as a senior national intelligence service executive and roles tied to technology policy, is that our current fragmented approach is not a winning strategy, nor is it sustainable in any credible way. The U.S. must advance approaches that are less energy intensive and build dynamic worldviews, including Bayesian, cognitive and active inference methods demonstrating faster learning with less data and energy. We also need federal clarity that advances U.S. AI capabilities while ensuring those capabilities embody our values of freedom, individual choice, and the right to be left alone.

Category	How PRC Would Leverage AI Leadership	Impact on U.S.	U.S. Vulnerability	Federal Response Needed
Economic Coercion	Control AI infrastructure, chips, and data processing; civil-military fusion	Restrict access; manipulate pricing; military advantage in autonomous systems	Fragmented state rules favor incumbents; slow defensive AI deployment	Federal preemption; upgrade domain laws; light-touch policies supporting American values
Military Advantage	AI in autonomous systems, cyber ops, intelligence; "intelligentized warfare"	Asymmetric capabilities; faster decision cycles; surveillance over data flows	Inconsistent rules slow defensive systems; talent gaps; insufficient edge capabilities	Framework for national security AI; accelerate talent pipelines; invest in local/edge models

Standards Setting	Export systems with PRC values; shape global governance; Shanghai AI organization	State control prioritized over liberty; erode privacy norms; authoritarian data governance	Regulatory uncertainty vs. unified PRC backing; lack of coordinated international approach	U.S. Federal standards enabling global competition; proactive governance engagement; allied ecosystems
Data Sovereignty	Require processing in PRC jurisdiction; 90% economic integration by 2030	Surveillance over global flows; deny services; enable coercion	State data rules fragment market; insufficient local processing respecting privacy	Framework on right to be left alone; citizen choice on processing location; local operation support
Distilled Models	Overproduce local-optimized models; run on commodity hardware	Undermine U.S. business models; reduce frontier investment; create dependencies; default for edge cases	Focus on cloud models vulnerable to commoditization; need consulting-service approaches to AI; need to advance more trustworthy, reliable AI efforts that can run locally in disconnected environments with less data and less energy	Support closed and open-weight models; invest in Bayesian and active inference-based approaches which demonstrate faster learning using less data and less energy; business model innovation

The PRC's approach to AI mirrors its industrial strategy across electric vehicles, solar panels, and batteries. This approach is a national and global strategy executed consistently over more than 15 years with remarkable discipline. The pattern is clear: overproduce to drive down global prices and expand supply-chain dependency, making it economically unprofitable for competitors to continue development, then leverage the resulting dependencies for geopolitical advantage. In AI, this manifests through multiple coordinated initiatives. The August 2025 State Council "Opinions on Deeply Implementing the 'AI+' Action" targets AI integration into 90% of China's economy by 2030, building on the 2017 New Generation AI Development Plan and the 14th Five-Year Plan.

In addition, PRC's July 2025 Global AI Governance Action Plan, announced by Premier Li Qiang at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference, outlines a 13-point roadmap for international coordination and proposes a Shanghai-based global AI organization. This systematic approach includes flooding the market with distilled AI models that, while potentially less robust than U.S. frontier models, can run locally on commodity hardware and operate efficiently in resource-constrained, edge, and disconnected environments. This approach undercuts the business case for U.S. frontier research

and undermines the business models of existing U.S. AI companies while simultaneously building domestic capabilities that embed authoritarian values into system design.

The absence of a comparable long-term U.S. strategy has left us reactive rather than proactive, responding to each development rather than shaping the competitive landscape according to our values of freedom, individual choice, and the right to be left alone. The risk assessment must account for multiple dimensions informed by more than 15 years of observable PRC behavior and strategy.

First, economic leverage: if the PRC achieves dominance in AI training infrastructure, model deployment, or specialized hardware, it gains the ability to restrict access and influence pricing in ways that disadvantage adversaries. The PRC's strategy of producing distilled models optimized for local deployment is particularly concerning because it targets use cases where cloud connectivity is limited, unreliable, or undesirable. This strategy is further bolstered in significant ways by PRC cross-border data transfer and data localization laws, which are egregious and daunting.

Second, military advantages: AI superiority in autonomous systems, cyber operations, and intelligence analysis creates asymmetric capabilities in contested domains. The PRC's civil-military fusion strategy, consistently pursued since the early 2010s, ensures that advances in commercial AI directly enhance military capabilities. Their doctrine of "intelligentized warfare" integrates AI across defense operations. This is an area where U.S. dependence on cloud-based frontier models creates vulnerabilities and where we need solutions embodying our values of individual agency and freedom.

Third, standards and norms setting: the PRC is actively exporting AI systems that embed state control over individual liberty, influencing international governance frameworks in ways that erode privacy norms and freedoms globally. The Global AI Governance Action Plan represents a coordinated effort to shape international AI governance, proposing mechanisms for coordination that reflect authoritarian rather than democratic values.

The U.S.'s own strategic AI framework and approaches are not positioned to counter these risks effectively or comprehensively. Conflicting state regulations threaten to fragment deployment across sectors. This fragmentation creates compliance nightmares. The PRC benefits when we hamstring ourselves. Every conflicting state requirement that prevents U.S. AI efforts from scaling nationally is a competitive advantage for PRC companies. Every U.S. startup that cannot navigate the regulatory patchwork and either fails or moves offshore is a win for Beijing's long-term strategy. The contrast is stark: China has executed a coherent, multi-decade strategy with clear milestones and coordinated implementation across government, industry, and academia, while the United States has lacked comparable strategic continuity and so far, has missed the opportunity to lead globally with our values of freedom, individual choices, and human agency.