

**Opening Statement of Ranking Member Jamie Raskin**  
**Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance**  
**Hearing titled, “Artificial Intelligence and Criminal Exploitation: A New**  
**Era of Risk”**  
**July 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Thank you, Chairman Biggs, and thank you to the witnesses for being with us here today.

Artificial Intelligence – or AI – is rapidly transforming nearly every industry and even our everyday lives. From mundane things like asking ChatGPT to help me find vegan recipes and create a grocery shopping list to using AI-enabled tools to help tackle some of the world’s biggest challenges, including [climate change](#) or [helping](#) law enforcement more effectively and efficiently identify child sexual abuse material, this technology is seeping into every aspect of our lives.

It is integrating into our society, altering and enhancing it, while raising important questions about how it affects our daily lives, the economy, public safety, and policymaking.

Like most technology, AI can be harnessed for more nefarious activity. Just last week, *The Washington Post* [reported](#) that Secretary of State Marco Rubio was impersonated using AI-powered software. The software allowed the person to reportedly contact quote, “at least five non-Department individuals, including three foreign ministers, a U.S. governor, and a U.S. member of Congress” in voicemails and text messages.

And while AI has the power to improve public safety and increase efficiency within countless aspects of our criminal justice system, the failure to understand how AI-enabled tools work along with the lack of any regulation of their use opens the door for mistakes, misuse, and abuse that can result in life-changing consequences.

Take the story of 29-year-old father Christopher Gatlin, who was charged in the brutal assault of a security guard, based on results produced by an AI-enabled facial recognition program.

Months after the assault occurred and after exhausting all other efforts to identify the culprits, the lead investigator in the case uploaded a screenshot from blurry surveillance footage of the attack into an AI-enabled facial recognition program. [Research](#) has long shown that facial recognition technology worsens racial inequities in policing, likely as a result of the lack of Black faces used in the algorithms' training data sets. And despite St. Louis, like many other cities, having a policy that warns officers that the results of facial recognition technology should not be used as the sole basis for an arrest, the officer began to build a case against Mr. Gatlin, who was identified by AI-generated results.

The lead officer would later acknowledge that he knew Mr. Gatlin had no history of violent offenses nor did he have any apparent ties to the crime scene, yet he was still arrested. And because he could not afford to pay the \$75,000 cash bond, Mr. Gatlin was [held](#) in jail. Two years after his arrest and

being held in jail for 17 months, the charges against Mr. Gatlin were dropped due to a lack of evidence and a committed public defender.

It's not just facial recognition technology that has resulted in wrongful arrests. In 2022, Fayetteville, North Carolina police arrested Jacqueline McNeill as she was headed home to get ready for her goddaughter's funeral. Days before, the city's AI-enabled automatic license plate readers spotted Ms. McNeill's vehicle a few minutes away from the scene of a shooting. Simply driving in proximity of the shooting was enough for police to target Ms. McNeill as a suspect. As her attorney noted, this kind of technology allows police to quote, "substitute the technology for thinking critically about the cases." Ms. McNeill was detained for four hours before police eventually apologized and released her. The mistaken arrest ultimately cost taxpayers \$60,000 after Ms. McNeill sued the city.

As a result of similar incidents around the country, and in the absence of a federal regulatory framework, states and localities have begun to consider and enact legislation to limit the use of AI-enabled technology. Yet the One Big Ugly Bill initially contained a provision that would have prohibited states from enforcing AI laws and regulations for a *full* decade. That means that the [23 states](#), including the Chairman's home state of Arizona and my home state of Maryland, that have passed legislation concerning nonconsensual, intimate deepfake images, including deepfake child sexual abuse material, would likely no longer be able to enforce those laws.

Luckily, after bipartisan pressure from governors and state legislators, wiser heads prevailed, and the provision was removed from the final, otherwise still harmful bill. But we know that some Republicans have vowed to continue pushing for a moratorium on state regulation of AI.

Instead of pushing for this troubling invasion of states' rights, we should come together and follow the sound recommendations from the Bipartisan House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, which issued a robust list of [recommendations](#) at the end of 2024. As members of the Task Force, including members of the House Judiciary Committee, wisely observed, AI models can produce misleading or inaccurate outputs, which can violate laws and deprive Americans of our most important rights. Among the recommendations, the Task Force concluded that Congress must ensure agencies understand and protect against using AI in discriminatory decision-making, that sectoral regulators should be empowered with tools and expertise to address AI-related risks in their domains, and take action to improve transparency around users affected by decisions made using AI.

Strong guardrails are all the more important as this technology continues to rapidly evolve and the current administration is pushing agencies to ramp up monitoring of protestors, immigrants, students, and other perceived enemies. For example, the Administration has [contracted](#) with billionaire Trump donor Peter Thiel's company to use AI to construct a mega database of Americans' personal information, and the State Department has started [using](#)

[AI](#) to monitor foreign students' social media posts and to flag any that contain opinions the Administration disagrees with in order to deport them

Rather than pursuing a moratorium on states that have taken action to prevent or mitigate harms caused by AI-enabled tools, we should be seriously exploring how Congress can implement the Task Force's recommendations and ensure that—both in the hands of the private sector and the government—AI is used to empower the American people, not subject all of us to the kind of mass surveillance that is antithetical to a free society.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses, and I yield back.