

Thank you, Chairman Pallone, for yielding. And thank you, Chairwoman Schakowsky, for holding this important hearing.

In the 1990's, Chicago's O'Hare Airport — the world's busiest airport, at the time — became the first to install touchless faucets. This innovation's promise of making things more sanitary and wasting less water were anticlimactic, however, when it was shown that these faucets had difficulty in recognizing Black and Brown Americans' hands.

While seemingly trivial, this is just one example of the real-world impediments that people of color across the country face because of the lack of representation in the technology industry. This same phenomenon has been repeated in facial recognition technology that mistakenly identified 28 Members of Congress, myself included, and in search engines that provide ads related to criminal record history when searching “Black sounding” names.

Madame Chairwoman, it should be clear that while the issue of diversity in tech may seem like a relatively straightforward problem, its ramifications are much bigger and go much deeper than it would appear.

So, I thank you for holding this hearing and look forward to hearing from the witnesses.

Madame Chairwoman, I ask unanimous consent to submit a *New York Times* article about mistakes in facial recognition for the record.

Thank you, I yield back the balance of my time.