



Make AI Work for Americans Act

Leaders and Stakeholders Support for the *Make AI Work for Americans Act* 09/29/2026

"It's critical that legislators in Washington and in state capitols around the country begin to act now to help Americans make a successful transition to an AI economy. We can't leave workers behind — as we have in the past — if we want to win the global AI competition. I applaud Senator Kelly for his leadership on this issue in Congress and for his legislation to make sure that AI works for working people," **said Gina Raimondo, CEO, RAISE US, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce.**

"Senator Mark Kelly has introduced legislation that says the companies profiting from artificial intelligence have an obligation to the workers that technology displaces. His bill puts real money behind job training, behind paid work that carries a credential, and behind a stronger safety net for people who lose employment through no fault of their own," **said Reverend Al Sharpton, President, National Action Network.**

Click [here](#) to read NAN's full letter of support.

"Innovation and safety are not opposing concepts; they're two sides of the same coin. That is why law and regulation, not just unbridled markets, are so important. Technology is rapidly transforming our lives—particularly our security, our classrooms, our workplaces, and our entire economy—but for it to be tenable, it must work for working people. Sen. Mark Kelly's *Make AI Work for Americans Act* ensures that a Big Tech tax contributes directly to the workers and communities navigating this transition. By creating the AI Horizon Fund and bringing labor and workers to the table, this bill invests in America by preparing people at every stage of their careers with the skills, stability, and opportunities they need to thrive," **said Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers.**

"The *Make AI Work for Americans Act* recognizes the critical nature of ensuring that AI protects and creates good jobs while prioritizing putting working people at the table for responsible implementation," **said Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien.** "We commend Senator Kelly for his work in drafting legislation that focuses on the dignity of work and creates pathways to protect workers and support them as their job evolves. That's the approach we need to earn workers' trust and grow the American middle class."

"At a time when many are urging our policymakers to take AI's potential disruption seriously, it is good to see in this legislation a set of policies aimed at mitigating AI's negative impacts on workers—from those just starting out to those displaced mid-career," **said Erika McEntarfer, former Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).**

“The early part of my career was building Internet platforms and I watched policy arrive years after the consequences did. We cannot repeat that same mistake in the AI era. Senator Kelly’s bill strengthens protections for workers before the disruption hits. And it is paid for by the industry, so the cost doesn’t fall on workers alone,” **said Jason Goldman, technologist and former White House Chief Digital Officer.**

“The public is looking for Congress to step up quickly to make sure AI development and deployment benefits workers, not just wealthy investors and executives. Senator Kelly’s bill offers many good ideas to push AI adoption in a pro-worker direction,” **said Bharat Ramamurti, former Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council.**

“Senator Kelly’s *Make AI Work for Americans Act* represents a major step forward in rejecting an AI future that concentrates gains for the few while leaving millions of hard-working Americans behind. The Act provides admirably detailed revenue proposals to ensure that those profiting from AI-induced displacement of workers, help fund a major increase in opportunities for workers to transition to new careers, start new businesses, attain National Service jobs while also ensuring that unemployment benefits are substantial enough to support a worker’s family while they strive to attain these new jobs. Importantly, Senator Kelly’s call for a major expansion of National Service jobs could provide entry level workers being squeezed out by AI the chance to both serve their country and gain valuable work experience, judgment and managerial skills,” **said Gene Sperling, Director of the National Economic Council for Presidents Clinton and Obama, Senior Advisor to President Biden, Director of the Economic Dignity Lab at McCourt School at Georgetown.**

“Senator Kelly has been thoughtfully wrestling with the concerns that real Americans are facing with the adoption of AI — job displacement, costs, and ensuring that the benefits of this technology don’t just accrue to the few. This keeps the focus on ensuring Americans win,” **said Mieke Eoyang, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy.**

“The companies that are ushering in AI should pay to fix the societal harms it will cause. Senator Kelly’s legislation is built on that idea. This bill puts industry dollars into supporting workers whose jobs are changing and gives everyone the resources to adapt. It will take effort from private companies and government leadership to make sure this technology develops responsibly, and I believe this bill is the right way to start,” **said Jon A. Shirley, former President, Chief Operating Officer, and Director of Microsoft.**

“Artificial intelligence is poised to reshape our economy in ways we can’t yet predict, and we need to prepare now so that Arizonans aren’t left behind. I’m grateful to Senator Kelly for his leadership on this issue. Arizona is fortunate to have him fighting for our workers,” **said Kris Mayes, Attorney General, Arizona.**



"On behalf of the Gila River Indian Community, I support Senator Kelly's leadership in introducing the *Make AI Work for Americans Act*. It is time for Congress to make sure that AI advancements are made in a thoughtful and deliberative manner that protects our people, our environment, and our workforce. It is critical that as Congress develops AI policies and laws that tribal governments are included and can ensure our communities and our workforce are both protected and can advance as AI evolves. Senator Kelly's legislation would ensure that the American workforce, including the tribal workforce, has opportunities to grow with AI advancements through every stage of their career by providing training and workforce opportunities for apprentices, new and existing workers, and entrepreneurs. The legislation carefully balances the U.S. labor market needs to create employment pathways while ensuring consistent monitoring of AI advancements to ensure that as AI evolves it isn't just big companies who benefit. I applaud Senator Kelly's strategic approach to ensuring workforce protections at a time when AI is evolving at a rapid pace. The Community looks forward to working with Senator Kelly as he advances this bill in Congress," **said Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community.**

"The Pascua Yaqui Tribe believes in creating opportunities that strengthen our people and communities for generations to come. Senator Kelly's Make AI Work for Americans Act will give Tribal small businesses owners more opportunities to grow and create jobs as our economy changes. I appreciate his commitment to making sure Tribal communities share in the economic opportunities created by AI," **said Julian Hernandez, Chairman of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.**

"I appreciate Senator Kelly's commitment to making sure some of the profits from artificial intelligence are invested in American workers who will be deeply impacted by changing technology," **said Kate Gallego, Mayor, City of Phoenix.**

"The future of work cannot be shaped without workers at the table. As AI changes our workplaces, workers in Tucson and across the country deserve access to the skills, support and opportunity to build a stable future paid for by the AI corporations. Senator Kelly's bill centers workers and families in our national response," **said Mayor Regina Romero, City of Tucson.**

"Arizona's workforce is the engine of our thriving economy. As AI continues to transform key industries across Arizona, we must ensure that it creates meaningful opportunities for working families and that our workers have access to the skills they need to succeed in an AI-driven economy," **said Mary Foote, Principal Deputy Director, Office of Economic Opportunity.**

"As AI evolves it will change how the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community does business, but it does not need to change how we work together as a community," said Martin Harvier, President of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. Harvier continued, "Senator Kelly's Make AI Work for Americans Act will ensure that that the next generation of employees have the training and education they need to serve in their communities, and it will provide individuals whose jobs were displaced due to changing technology with a strong foundation on which to rebuild. I look forward to working with Senator Kelly and his colleagues



to strengthen Arizona's economy and build a more resilient workforce in the years to come,” **said Martin Harvier, President, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.**

“As AI transforms the American workforce, people deserve a voice in what comes next. Senator Kelly’s legislation holds big tech companies accountable for how AI affects workers and their communities. That’s especially important in Arizona, where many are concerned about what this technology means for their jobs. This bill is a strong step forward,” **said Jim McLaughlin, President, UFCW Local 99.**

“As we move into the future with a strong AI presence, Teamsters Local 104 supports Senator Kelly’s *Make AI Work for Americans Act*. While corporations deter the working class from thriving, this bill will establish a fund to protect workers and support apprenticeships. Unions built this country, and with Senator Kelly’s bill, unions will continue to thrive for generations to come. As we see increased deployment of AI, it is essential that working people are not left behind, and that new technologies come with good jobs and the requisite training to help workers move forward. We appreciate Senator Kelly’s focus on these key issues,” **said Karla E. Schumann, Secretary-Treasurer, Principal Officer, Teamsters Local 104.**

“Artificial intelligence is changing how we learn, work, and create at an accelerated pace that demands we evolve in the way we manage this moment,” **said Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University, whose PhD in public administration was focused on science and technology policy.** “Senator Mark Kelly’s *Make AI Work for Americans Act* is a critical step forward at an inflection point in AI’s progress, recognizing the need to equip Americans with the tools to navigate and participate in an economy being reshaped by this technology. The bill addresses AI literacy, workforce training, postsecondary education, and the needs of mid-career workers, presenting solutions that reflect the scale of the challenges ahead. ASU understands the fundamental responsibility of higher education to lead in a time of rapid technological change, and we are committed to helping drive the education and workforce approaches presented in this legislation.”

“I appreciate Senator Kelly’s leadership on preparing Arizona’s workers and communities for the AI transition. His focus on workforce training, apprenticeships and stronger university-community college partnerships aligns directly with the work the University of Arizona is doing across our state,” **said Suresh Garimella, President, University of Arizona, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.**

"Navajo Technical University applauds Senator Kelly for introducing the *Make AI Work for Americans Act*. As the nation races to build an AI-ready workforce, Native communities must be included. This legislation's focus on workforce training funding, rural broadband access, and higher education partnerships is the kind of investment that ensures AI's benefits reach Indian Country. At NTU, we are preparing the next generation of Diné engineers, data scientists, and technologists. This Act would help us scale that work and make sure Native students have a



seat at the table as this technology reshapes the workforce. We urge Congress to move swiftly to pass it,” **said Elmer Guy, President, Navajo Technical University.**



“Diné College views the AI Workforce for Americans Act as a significant opportunity to translate AI workforce policy into education, industry-recognized credentials, employment, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunity for the Navajo Nation—while ensuring that Diné sovereignty, Indigenous knowledge, language, and Tribal data are protected,” **said Arlando Teller, Director of Legislative & Government Affairs, Diné College.**

“Arizona’s community colleges are where technological change becomes opportunity for students, workers, and employers. Across our eleven independent college districts, preparing people for an AI-driven economy means connecting accessible education with the skills employers need. We support the *Make AI Work for Americans Act*’s workforce provisions, particularly its investment in community college programs, employer partnerships, and services that help students complete their education and move into meaningful careers. We appreciate Senator Kelly’s recognition that workers need opportunities to build new skills throughout their lives. From our largest cities to our rural and tribal communities, America’s leadership in AI will depend on investing just as boldly in people as we do in technology,” **said Eric A. Heiser, PhD, President & CEO, Coconino Community College, Chair, Arizona Community College Coordinating Council (AC4).**

“AI is changing our economy, and Hispanic entrepreneurs and small business owners need to be part of what comes next. That’s why this bill matters: it puts real resources behind business owners and entrepreneurs who are ready to build in this new economy but need the tools and capital to do it. We thank Senator Kelly for recognizing what our community needs to grow and succeed,” **said Monica Villalobos, President and CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.**

“A safe AI future and a fair AI economy are two sides of the same promise. With one in five American workers expected to be Latino by 2030, our community has an enormous stake in seeing that promise kept. Senator Kelly’s *Make AI Work for Americans Act* ensures that as the AI industry grows, so do our investments in the workers who power the American economy. This legislation invests in paid service-to-career pathways, community college and apprenticeship programs, and capital for new small businesses. It gives workers who lose their jobs real stability as they retrain and find their next opportunity; and it helps close the digital divide by supporting digital access for participants, building AI literacy into our workforce system, and making resources available to people with limited English proficiency. It also gives workers and civil rights organizations a seat at the table as AI enters the workplace. This legislation lays the foundation for modernizing how we support workers and workplaces in the age of AI. UnidosUS is proud to endorse it and urges Congress to pass it,” **said Eric Rodriguez, Senior Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, UnidosUS.**

“Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the nature of work, and our workforce development systems must evolve alongside it. JFF is proud to support the *Make AI Work for Americans Act*, which invests in the systems already serving workers while expanding access to education and training, strengthening service-to-career pathways, supporting entrepreneurship, and helping workers navigate technological change. We applaud Senator Kelly’s leadership in advancing a vision for AI that puts workers at the center and helps ensure technological progress creates greater economic opportunity for people and communities across the country,” **said Maria Flynn, President and CEO, Jobs for the Future (JFF).**

“The greatest barrier to older Americans participating in the AI economy is not their willingness to learn, but access to opportunities. Older Americans are ready to embrace AI and develop the skills needed to succeed in a changing workplace. What they need is access to training and investments in their potential. Our economy cannot afford to overlook this extraordinary source of talent,” **said Gary. A. Officer, Founder & CEO, CWI Labs.**

“Senator Kelly’s *Make AI Work for Americans Act* is a series of policy proposals focused on what Americans will need most in the AI age. If AI has the transformative impact on our society that those who are building it say it will, we will need new ideas and a safety net for our workforce, small businesses, and more. This bill focuses on how to deliver real benefits to Americans impacted by AI and makes sure companies pay their fair share to ensure that AI works for all of us. It’s refreshing to see real leaders rising to the challenge of the AI age and we applaud the Senator for his efforts,” **said Neera Tanden, President and CEO of the Center for American Progress.**

“As artificial intelligence transforms our classrooms and communities, we have a generational responsibility to ensure that every student and worker is equipped to navigate this new landscape. The *Make AI Work for Americans Act* takes a vital, inclusive approach, anchored by robust investments in education, AI literacy, and workforce alignment, so that all Americans can share in the remarkable opportunities of artificial intelligence while safeguarding against its risks,” **said Erin Mote, CEO, InnovateEDU.**

“It is important that Congress recognizes that we need a greater investment in worker transitions, particularly given the possibility for a dramatic reshaping of our economy due to rapid advancement in technology. Senator Kelly and his staff have done a great job thinking about the most pressing issues with unemployment insurance, especially right now. I hope this legislation gets the serious consideration that it deserves,” **said Michele Evermore, Senior Fellow for Worker Transitions, National Employment Law Project.**

“This act would empower underserved communities with the necessary tools to help shape their lives and our collective future via system innovation, especially for small businesses. At the same time, it addresses the existing digital divide by opening new pathways to unexplored economic opportunity, competition, and equity. It turns AI into a participatory device accessible



to all, rather than a passive application intended for and controlled by a few," **said Robert Alvarado, Senior Vice President, Chicanos Por La Causa.**

"AmeriCorps and the nation's state service commissions connect service to careers, provide hands-on experience, skill development, and pathways to meaningful work. We applaud Senator Kelly's leadership in introducing the *Make AI Work for Americans Act* and his recognition of the National Service for America's Future program to expand paid service opportunities that lead to credentials, careers, and durable skills. As technology reshapes the workplace, national service can play an important role in preparing workers and strengthening communities. State service commissions stand ready to help turn this vision into opportunities that meet local workforce needs across the country," **said John Kelly, CEO, America's Service Commissions.**

"Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the labor market, including many of the entry-level jobs that have traditionally helped young people get a foothold in the workforce. The *Make AI Work for Americans Act* recognizes that national service should be part of the solution. By building on AmeriCorps as a backbone for new service-to-career opportunities and exploring ways to strengthen AmeriCorps, this legislation would help more Americans build durable skills, gain meaningful work experience, and pursue credentials and careers while meeting critical needs in their communities. We thank Senator Kelly for recognizing national service as an important part of the workforce infrastructure our country will need as AI transforms the economy," **said AnnMaura Connolly, President, Voices for National Service.**

"As Congress writes the rules for what comes next, young people must be at the center of it. They're entering a job market where the entry-level roles that used to launch careers are changing fast. Americans across the ideological spectrum support national service, and states are equipped to scale it. Every time this country has faced a shift this large, it has answered with service, from the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Depression to the GI Bill after World War II. Today's challenge deserves an answer of the same ambition. Senator Kelly is putting one on the table, and we are grateful for his leadership," **said Vicky Hausman, Founder & CEO, American Service Project.**

"AI is rapidly reshaping the way industries operate, and it's essential that our economic and workforce development strategies keep pace," **said Sandra Watson, President and CEO, Arizona Commerce Authority.** "I'm grateful to Senator Kelly for his leadership in advancing U.S. technology leadership while helping ensure that every Arizonan has access to the skills, training, and pathways needed to thrive in the 21st-century economy."

"I believe this legislation's most important aspect is its proactive nature. Creating a resource that funds ongoing workforce development, education, research and labor market programs that enable residents to upskill or change industries by earning a credential or certification, or by participating in a registered apprenticeship program, will keep more Americans employed through any coming economic disruptions. In particular, we're encouraged by the inclusion of



entrepreneurship and small business development as viable beneficiaries of resources generated by this proposed bill,” **said Kimber Lanning, CEO of Local First Arizona, the largest local business coalition in the US.** “Investing in entrepreneurship is a brilliant strategy for creating long-term economic resilience across the country.”

“Hustle PHX supports the *Make AI Work for Americans Act* because innovation should create opportunity in every community. As AI reshapes our economy, we must invest in the people who will shape its future—especially entrepreneurs, workers, and communities that have historically faced barriers to economic opportunity. We believe community empowerment means more than access to technology. It means access to skills, capital, entrepreneurship, supportive resources, and pathways to economic mobility. We encourage implementation of this legislation to prioritize underserved communities and measure success by real outcomes—jobs, income, businesses, and stronger communities,” **said Oye Waddell, CEO, Hustle PHX.**

“Senator Kelly is right: the companies profiting most from AI built it on the knowledge and work of all of us, and some of that value has to come back to American workers. The *Make AI Work for Americans Act* does that. As a computer scientist and owner of a small Arizona AI firm, I see the other half of the equation every day. Small and medium businesses, which generate nearly half of our economy, want to adopt AI but can't afford the expertise to do it well. This bill's investment in community college training and in technical assistance for small businesses adopting AI points the way: helping employers redesign jobs around the people they already have, so workers stay employed rather than only being supported after they fall. It is also how America wins the AI race with China: not only by building the most powerful models, but by putting AI to work across our entire economy,” **said Loretta H. Cheeks, Ph.D., Founder and CEO, DS Innovation & Strong TIES.**

“Ensuring that AI brings broad-based benefits is the defining challenge of our era. That task starts in the labor market, where we must make sure AI complements workers rather than simply displacing them, and creates pathways to better, well-paid careers. Senator Kelly's *Make AI Work for Americans Act* is a major step in this direction: it encourages the development and deployment of pro-worker AI; improves worker training; and strengthens the safety net so that nobody falls through the cracks,” **said Daron Acemoglu, Institute Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).**

“The biggest economic question of our era is whether we use AI merely to replace people or to expand their capabilities to do new things, creating more widely shared prosperity. Senator Kelly's *Make AI Work for Americans Act* shapes that choice in the right direction: investing in workers, boosting entrepreneurship, modernizing the safety net, and exploring new approaches such as wage insurance. I'm delighted to support this thoughtful legislation,” **said Erik Brynjolfsson, Director, Stanford Digital Economy Lab.**

“As we continue to learn what the impacts of artificial intelligence will be on American workplaces, one thing is clear: we must ensure workers are protected. The *Make AI Work for*



Americans Act provides new resources to support workers by creating an AI Horizon Fund that can expand workforce development, create opportunities for small businesses, and shore up the safety net—all paid for by leading AI firms," **said Heather Boushey, Professor of Practice, Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, University of Pennsylvania.**



“How we support workers through the AI transition is one of the defining economic challenges of our time. I applaud Senator Kelly for putting forward economically sound legislation that is grounded in a clear understanding of how workers move through the labor market and uses the full set of tools we have to support workers at every stage of their careers,” **said Neale Mahoney, Professor of Economics and Director of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Stanford University.**

“Public choices shape how technological revolutions affect society. With artificial intelligence poised to reshape our economy, we urgently need political leaders to come forward with ideas for steering this transformation toward shared prosperity. Senator Kelly advances this vital national conversation at a pivotal moment with proposals to expand opportunity for workers, strengthen career ladders, and help communities adapt and thrive in an increasingly AI-driven economy,” **said Ramin Toloui, Distinguished Policy Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research.**

“The legislation introduced by Senator Kelly is a timely and urgently needed step toward building labor market resilience and modernizing the institutions that build and protect American talent. The federal trust fund envisioned by this legislation is a model at the right time to confront a moment of deep uncertainty for workers while connecting them to good jobs. While predicting the magnitude of the effect of AI on the labor market is impossible, the range of potential disruption could occur on a scale comparable to the largest changes in employment and the nature of work in our history. More importantly, these disruptions may occur rapidly, and indeed the scenarios of greatest disruption might be those with the lowest lead-time to respond. Already, the half-life of skills in the labor market is evolving faster than our legacy systems can track. This tension between speed and uncertainty means that while the effect of AI is a fast-moving target about which we are still learning, policy to protect workers and empower them with skills cannot afford to simply take a “wait and see” approach. The workforce provisions of this legislation offer a platform to proactively strengthen and build the institutions that will be needed if AI is to be a driver of shared prosperity,” **said Professor Christophe Combemale, Carnegie Mellon University Engineering and Public Policy.**

“In the *Make AI Work for Americans Act*, Senator Kelly demonstrates a forward-looking plan to help mitigate the adverse impacts of AI adoption on our workforce. Key to this vision is worker empowerment through training, education, and increased AI literacy. The whole country will benefit from the proposed creation of best practices for the safe and responsible integration of AI in the workplace. With this Act, Senator Kelly prioritizes worker support and opportunities by defining a path to stabilization and flourishing,” **said Kiri Wagstaff, AAI Fellow and Special Advisor on AI for the OSU Libraries, Oregon State University.**