Senator Markey's *AI Civil Rights Act*
Endorser Quotes

"As this bill recognizes, AI is a crucial civil rights frontier. Too often, AI systems work in the background, using discriminatory algorithms to evaluate us. These systems can shape our lives, determining our access to educational and job opportunities, our eligibility for loans, our access to health care, and our interactions with the criminal legal system. Senator Markey recognizes the need to regulate these systems so that private companies and government agencies cannot use them to perpetuate discrimination or undermine core principles of equality under the law. We look forward to continued engagement with Senator Markey and coalition partners across the country to enact the strongest possible civil rights protections so that everyone is protected from inherently biased or improperly used AI technologies," **said Kade Crockford, Director of Technology and Justice Programs at the ACLU of Massachusetts**.

"The unchecked use of AI must end. Powerful corporations are using it to classify, sort, and exclude people without accountability—fueling discrimination, deepening inequality, and stripping individuals of rights and dignity. Senator Markey's *AI Civil Rights Act* directly confronts this danger. It would prohibit algorithmic bias in consequential decisions about life opportunities such as jobs, housing, credit, education, healthcare, and access to essential services. By setting clear limits, the Act affirms that fairness, transparency, and equity cannot be sacrificed to automated decision-making. Passing this law is essential to ensure AI serves people and, above all, justice rather than eroding it," **said Katharina Kopp, Deputy Director, Center for Digital Democracy**.

"Our communities need the *AI Civil Rights Act of 2025*. This bill tackles the AI systems that harm Black communities every day — from predictive policing tools that over-target our neighborhoods, to automated hiring platforms that screen out qualified Black candidates, to algorithmic lending models that deny mortgages and small-business loans based on flawed data. The legislation delivers what we've long demanded: real accountability. Crucially, it demands intervention at the development phase — before these systems are deployed and the damage is done. It requires tech companies to test their AI for racial bias, fix the problems they uncover, and prove their compliance through independent audits. And when algorithms discriminate, Black people have recourse to seek real justice. For too long, Big Tech has hidden behind claims that their algorithms are 'neutral' while those same systems automate racism at a massive scale. The *AI Civil Rights Act of 2025* is a tool to fight back against digital discrimination, ensuring that technology works for Black people, not against us," **said Portia Allen-Kyle, Interim Executive Director of Color Of Change**.

"All people deserve to benefit from advances in technologies, regardless of race, income, or zip code," **said Carol Evans, Vice President of Policy for Common Cause**. "But today, AI

systems are making life-altering decisions for us about jobs, housing, and healthcare, often making current inequalities worse and threatening both individual rights and our democracy's promise of equal opportunity. Common Cause proudly supports the *AI Civil Rights Act* because it will bring greater accountability and transparency to AI algorithms and ensure that new technologies don't undermine our future by entrenching the discrimination of the past."

"I applaud Senator Markey for reintroducing the *AI Civil Rights Act*," **said James P. Steyer, Founder and CEO of Common Sense Media**. "As a former civil rights attorney, I understand how essential it is for technology, including AI, to serve the public interest, including the best interests of kids and families. AI is already a powerful force shaping decisions in education, healthcare, employment, housing, and other areas that impact so many of us. By making civil rights a priority in AI deployment, this legislation takes important, necessary steps toward ensuring families can trust the technology that's changing every aspect of our lives. Building trust in AI by ensuring that innovation benefits everyone is a key step, and we thank the Senator for his leadership in this area."

"Deaf Equality is proud to endorse this bill. Civil rights discrimination, including against those with disabilities, occurs everywhere including within new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). With AI becoming prevalent in everyday life, civil rights protections must be built into such new developments. All of us need this *AI Civil Rights Act* to pass to ensure none of us are left behind by technology," **said Howard Rosenblum, the CEO of Deaf Equality**.

"Artificial intelligence systems are being developed and deployed in opaque and unaccountable ways that are harming individuals and exacerbating biases. Senator Markey's *Artificial Intelligence Civil Rights Act of 2025* puts critical guardrails in place to ensure automated decision-making is fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory. EPIC is proud to support this legislation," **said Caitriona Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)**.

"Free Press Action welcomes Senator Markey's and Representative Clarke's re-introduction of the *AI Civil Rights Act*. Protecting our rights only grows more urgent as Artificial Intelligence continues to seep into every corner of our lives. More and more, it dictates people's access to education, employment, healthcare, housing, insurance and other economic opportunities. It also affects their interactions with the courts, police and immigration officials, as shadowy federal forces and local law enforcement adopt commercial tools to monitor protests, silence dissent, and track people's loyalty to an increasingly authoritarian administration. All of these AI systems can replicate real-world bias and routinely cause harm. The *AI Civil Rights Act* is a serious step toward addressing these urgent issues and enabling policymakers to keep up with these evolving technologies, rather than exacerbating their discriminatory and disparate impacts," **said Craig Aaron, President and Co-CEO of Free Press Action**.

"For the 50 million Americans with hearing loss, biased or inaccessible AI algorithms can mean exclusion from jobs, health care, government benefits and essential services. Developers need to ensure that their AI systems are fully inclusive and work for everyone, including people with hearing loss and other disabilities. Senator Markey's proposed legislation would be an important safeguard to protect the privacy and civil rights of all Americans, without discrimination," **said Barbara Kelley, Executive Director, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)**.

"The benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) cannot come at the expense of upholding the civil rights of immigrants in housing, education, and other important areas. As corporations use AI to derive data about human beings, algorithmic bias can lead to discrimination and injustice. The *AI Civil Rights Act* would create protections to ensure AI tools are assessed for respecting civil rights and racial justice. As AI becomes an increasingly powerful tool, it is important that the federal government ensure developers design algorithms promoting equity and eliminating bias and discrimination," **said Margaret Cargioli, Directing Attorney of Policy and Advocacy at Immigrant Defenders Law Center**.

"InnovateEDU congratulates Senator Markey and Representative Clarke on introducing the *AI Civil Rights Act*. While AI promises to personalize learning, that potential is threatened when biased algorithms supercharge existing inequities. This bill establishes crucial guardrails to ensure technology serves as a tool for opportunity for all students, not a barrier. It's an essential step toward responsible and ethical innovation," **said Erin Mote, CEO, InnovateEDU**.

"At this crossroads of technology and justice, we cannot allow the tools of tomorrow to carry the biases of yesterday. Artificial intelligence is already shaping decisions about jobs, housing, education, health care, and public safety, and too often it deepens discrimination rather than dismantling it. The *AI Civil Rights Act* establishes the clear standards and independent oversight needed to ensure no community is harmed by hidden algorithms or unchecked bias. We understand that every economic and social door AI opens can also be closed if we fail to act responsibly. Our communities deserve innovation that widens opportunity, not discrimination dressed up as progress. The National Action Network supports this legislation because protecting civil rights in the digital age is essential to safeguarding opportunity for all," **said Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President, National Action Network**.

"As automated systems transform the marketplace, individuals require protections against the established risks, including the opaque, complex algorithms that lead to biased outcomes in decision making," **said Christine Hines, Senior Policy Director, National Association of Consumer Advocates**. "The *AI Civil Rights Act* represents a critical step in ensuring that civil rights and anti-discrimination principles remain central as the technology rapidly evolves."

"The Open Technology Institute is pleased to endorse the *AI Civil Rights Act*. Algorithms are making more and more of the decisions that shape our daily lives—from who gets hired to whether a tenant is accepted by a housing management company to which prior authorizations are approved by insurers. Too often, algorithmic decisions entrench bias and deepen inequities. The *AI Civil Rights Act* would rectify some of these harms by requiring independent audits, enforcing transparency, and giving people the right to a human review. The bill affirms a simple principle: decisions that shape people's lives should be made by people, with algorithms supporting human decision making, not replacing it," **said Prem Trivedi, Director of New America's Open Technology Institute**.

"AI developers and deployers have recklessly chased profits and accolades at the expense of our communities for far too long. The *AI Civil Rights Act* helps establish a true moral compass for these companies, and ensures that civil rights and human rights protections are at the forefront of how we create, feed, and maintain algorithms online." **said Brenda Victoria Castillo, President & CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition**. "Our mental health, well-being, and safety are too important to our fight for justice to not have safeguards on the books that prioritize people-first solutions. NHMC is proud to once again support Senator Markey and Congresswoman Clarke as they pioneer AI legislation in the U.S. and protect Latino families."

"The *AI Civil Rights Act* will create much needed safeguards to help ensure that AI tools are properly evaluated and demonstrate benefits for public safety and protect all Americans' civil rights and civil liberties. These guardrails are especially important for AI products used in high-stakes domains like policing, where effective regulation can mean the difference between safety and harm," **said Katie Kinsey, Chief of Staff and Tech Policy Counsel at the Policing Project at NYU School of Law**.

"AI can generate extremely powerful impacts as well as adverse consequences. While organizations may seek to gain significantly from the AI they develop and/or adopt, they must do so responsibly. Just as one might expect with nuclear power installations, AI must not be developed or deployed without strong safeguards and without mechanisms to hold those developing and running AI accountable for accidents and other harms. Leaders of AI developers and adopters—and their boards of directors—must be required to oversee AI development and usage; to provide fulsome and timely disclosure about their practices to stakeholders (investors, consumers, suppliers, employees and regulators); and to quickly identify, address and notify affected parties of any harms, in a culture designed to welcome whistleblower complaints and truly independent audits. We strongly endorse this bill as a much-needed step in this direction," **said The Value Alliance**.

"Now, as families face rising costs from scams and higher prices fueled by AI, and discrimination in access to a job, housing, or a bank account, is stealthy and ignored by those

charged with enforcing the law, we need the common-sense steps in this important bill. Congress should act to decisively address the risks of AI, which inevitably makes predictions based on the past rather than human potential. Continued inaction on AI—or worse, attempts to preempt state law—would be foolhardy and irresponsible, and will not, in the long run, help the tech industry make its products more useful or democratic," **said Laura MacCleery, Senior Policy Director at UnidosUS**.

"Artificial Intelligence could be a great boon—if used correctly and with important safeguards in place. The *AI Civil Rights Act* is a critical step toward ensuring technology works for all of us and does not perpetuate discrimination of the past," **said Cheryl A. Leanza, Policy Advisor for the United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry (UCC Media Justice)**.

"The Writers Guild of America East is proud to endorse the *AI Civil Rights Act*. This timely legislation creates common-sense guardrails to protect people from the systematic bias embedded in artificial intelligence systems. Developers, companies and institutions must not be permitted to deploy and use AI tools with discriminatory algorithms in a manner that disproportionately harms marginalized communities," **said Tom Fontana, President of the Writers Guild of America East**. "We thank Senator Markey and Congresswoman Clarke for fighting against this new form of discrimination."

"This Act represents the kind of human centered policy approach we desperately need for AI development and deployment. By grounding oversight in civil rights and preserving a right to human review, this bill is an important step in putting communities first. For LGBTQ+ people and other marginalized groups who have too often been harmed by biased systems, protections like these are essential to building AI that supplements our needs rather than deepening our existing inequities," **said Shae Gardner, Director of Policy & Research, LGBT Tech**.

"AI can be a spotlight—or a blindfold. Too often, black-box systems supercharge old biases, shutting Latino and other underserved families out of jobs, housing, health care, and basic dignity. The *AI Civil Rights Act* is simple fairness: real guardrails, independent audits, and accountability. LULAC has fought for equal opportunity, language access, and due process since 1929—through every era, every barrier, every new excuse to exclude. The bottom line: technology should protect rights and improve efficiency, not undermine either," **said Roman Palomares, National President and Board Chairman of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)**.

"AI tools that determine access to housing, healthcare, employment, education, safety, and more will continue to be biased against disabled people unless they are required to uphold disability civil rights," **said Michelle Uzeta, Interim Executive Director of the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund**. "Developers and users must also be held accountable for ensuring

those protections are built in and maintained. We cannot allow opaque, 'black box' AI systems to further erode the rights of disabled people to fully participate in every aspect of American life. The *AI Civil Rights Act* empowers people with disabilities to protect ourselves against discriminatory AI systems and brings us closer to a future where the use of AI is transparent, fair, and inclusive for all."

"This act is about protecting what makes us human. Technology should never come at the cost of fairness, trust, or human dignity. The *AI Civil Rights Act* reminds us that progress means nothing if it leaves people behind—and that building the future starts with protecting each other," **said Rev. Chris Hope, Founder of The Hope Group and CEO of The Loop Lab**.

"We applaud the leadership of Senator Markey, and Representatives Clark, Jayapal, Pressley, and Lee, for reintroducing the *AI Civil Rights Act*. A future where responsible AI-powered solutions are developed and deployed to benefit all Americans is possible, and this bill helps move us toward that promise. AI tools can help drastically increase access to quality healthcare, housing, employment opportunities, and more, if proper guardrails are in place. This bill will help ensure that people can trust AI products, which in turn, will help our businesses continue to lead on innovation," **said Patrick Armstrong, Vice President of Technology Policy & Government Affairs, Kapor Center Advocacy**.

"American citizens, consumers, and workers are increasingly concerned about the impact of AI on their lives. We deserve technologies that center our rights, well-being, and public interest. Innovation and civil rights can and should advance together. Senator Markey's AI Civil Rights bill is a welcome step forward to ensure safeguards are embedded into these systems and people's rights, freedoms, and safety are protected." **said Merve Hickok, President of the Center for AI and Digital Policy**.

###