Dear Representatives Hurd, Kelly, Chabot, Veasey, Moulton, Baird, Cloud, and Connolly,

Re: Endorsement of H.C.R. 116 “Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States.”

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) represents the nearly 7,000 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We support policies that strengthen the American science and technology base, drive American economic competitiveness, and ensure that the development of new technology is guided by American values. To that end, we endorse H.C.R. 116 and thank you for your leadership setting forth a bold approach to American artificial intelligence (AI).

Significant disruption due to AI technology has begun and will continue to grow. With reports[1][2] indicating that quarter or more of jobs are threatened by AI, we must ensure that the United States remains the leader in AI research or face a future in which America is no longer the technological—or economic—engine of the world. At the same time, it is critical that this new technology be paired with strong ethical principles to increase opportunity, reduce inequality, and promote the general welfare of the United States.

H.C.R. 116 presents a sensible and effective roadmap to begin tackling these challenges. By calling for sustained, thoughtful investment in our AI workforce through education and research funding as well as streamlined hiring practices, this approach will empower our scientific talent to bolster American leadership of AI. By calling for transparent, ethical AI practices and datasets representative of the American population, this resolution lays out a vision for an ethical American AI industry. The emphasis on building an inclusive and diverse workforce, especially for talent from nontraditional backgrounds, will be especially effective in building an AI future that reflects American values. We strongly support the sense of Congress established in this resolution and look forward to the implementation of these principles.

If you would like to know more about the importance of increased research funding for graduate students and our nation’s global competitiveness, or would like to discuss additional methods of advancing graduate education and research, please reach out to us at gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Lane
Vice Chair, External Affairs Board
MIT Graduate Student Council
Doctoral Student, LIGO Laboratory
MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

Seamus Lombardo
Federal Affairs Co-Chair, External Affairs Board
MIT Graduate Student Council
Doctoral Student, Space Enabled Research Group
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

Michael DeMarco
Federal Affairs Co-Chair, External Affairs Board
MIT Graduate Student Council
Doctoral Student, NSF Fellow
Condensed Matter Theory Group
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA