



Press Statement

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MMTC's Statement in Support of Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester's AI Literacy Act Bill

WASHINGTON, DC (April 9, 2024): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) supports H.R. 6971, the Artificial Intelligence Literacy Act (AILA), introduced by Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE). This important legislation has the potential to empower rural and multicultural communities across the United States by providing access to critical AI education and workforce readiness opportunities.

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies presents a unique opportunity for historically underserved communities to overcome the digital divide and participate fully in the economic and social benefits of the AI revolution. AILA recognizes the transformative power of AI and seeks to ensure that rural and minority communities are not left behind. By facilitating AI literacy opportunities and addressing disparities in AI education and workforce readiness, AILA can serve as a catalyst for change. The legislation aims to empower individuals in rural and multicultural communities with the tools, resources, and training necessary to become informed consumers and creators of AI technologies.

"AILA is a vital step towards ensuring that all communities, particularly those who have been historically underserved and underrepresented in the tech sector, have equal access to the opportunities and benefits that AI presents," said Kenley Joseph, Tech and Telecom Policy Counsel at MMTC. "By promoting diversity and inclusion in the AI workforce, we can ensure that the development and deployment of AI technologies are guided by a broader range of perspectives and experiences, ultimately leading to more equitable and unbiased outcomes."

AILA proposes modifications to the Digital Equity Act of 2021, which received broad bipartisan support and was included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. By leveraging existing legislation, AILA presents an efficient and targeted approach to close the digital divide and equip communities with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in the AI age. MMTC is a strong support of AILA and its goals. This legislation has the potential to unlock the often overlooked potential of rural and minority communities, enabling them to participate in the AI revolution and shape a more equitable future.

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide on behalf of its members and constituents, including owners of radio and television broadcast stations, programmers, prospective station owners, and others involved in the TMT industries. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications. MMTC's vision is to achieve a fully connected, educated, healthy, and empowered society in which all communities thrive. Visit MMTC's website [here](#).