

Support for the Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2022

- **Montreal AI Ethics Institute**
- **Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)**

"At many of the most important moments of our lives—when we're applying for jobs, housing, loans, college—we are screened and scored by opaque algorithms, often without even knowing it. And the algorithms often reflect judgments that reinforce bias and inequities in our society. There is little transparency on how these algorithms work, and there is rarely accountability for discriminatory outcomes. The Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2022 will change that by establishing crucial transparency measures to safeguard against discriminatory algorithms. EPIC is proud to support the Algorithmic Accountability Act." -Caitriona Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC).
- **Color of Change**

"Big Tech's problem of algorithmic bias has gone on for too long and we can no longer allow for these issues to go unregulated," said Arisha Hatch, Vice President of Color Of Change. "When bias in algorithms goes unchecked, Black people are subjected to discrimination in healthcare, housing, education, and employment — impacting nearly all parts of our lives. In order to reduce the impact of this bias, Big Tech and their operations must proactively detect and address discrimination. Companies conducting their own audits is a first step but prevention will be key. The Algorithmic Accountability Act can effectively protect Black people from automated discrimination, equip the FTC with the resources necessary to enforce these protections and create a more equitable digital space. Color Of Change commends Sens. Wyden and Booker and Rep. Clarke for advancing racial justice equities in tech regulation. We hope Congress will pass this instrumental legislation."
- **Aerica Shimizu Banks (Tech policy and equity expert)**
- **Consumer Reports**

"Poorly designed algorithms can result in inaccurate outcomes, inconsistent results, serious discriminatory impacts, and other harms. The Algorithmic Accountability Act is an important foundation to provide researchers and policymakers with the tools to identify who can be impacted by these emerging technologies and how. We look forward to continue working with the sponsors of the bill to seek out the most effective ways to mitigate algorithmic harm." -Nandita Sampath, Policy Analyst at Consumer Reports.
- **Accountable Tech**

"Big Tech companies like Facebook and Google use sophisticated and secretive algorithms to turn billions of users' personal data into trillion dollar corporations. But despite the tremendous impact algorithmic systems have on our daily lives, we only have a narrow understanding of how they're created and deployed. The increasing reliance on algorithms to govern vast swaths of the economy demands increased scrutiny. Already, studies have shown that algorithms have the propensity to mimic human biases, fueling discriminatory outcomes – from reproducing real-world gender disparities when showing job listings to excluding racial and ethnic groups from certain housing opportunities. The Algorithmic Accountability Act is a much-needed structural solution that will bring transparency to the influential algorithms at the center of our economy. Opening up design choices to evaluation from civil rights, policy, and privacy experts will help protect consumers and incentivize positive innovation." -Nicole Gill, Co-founder and Executive Director of Accountable Tech.

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- **US PIRG**

- **Parity AI**

“For far too long, automated systems have operated in many contexts without oversight, quietly making opaque decisions that affect our lives every day. Rather than helping address discrimination as is so often claimed, the growth of AI is set to repeat history all over again, with algorithmic inequity falling disproportionately on already-marginalized communities. It’s past time our nation’s regulators rein in Silicon Valley’s monopolistic, automated discrimination. As an algorithm auditing platform, we at Parity have seen the troubling underside of many such algorithms, which are in dire need of oversight. We welcome this bill as an important step towards creating a world free from algorithmic inequity, by providing much-needed accountability for high-impact systems.” -Liz O’Sullivan, Parity AI CEO.

- **Credo AI**

- **Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT)**

- **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)**

“While automated systems do have benefits, we are keenly aware of insufficient safeguards that protect Americans from data misuse by entities that increasingly rely on algorithms for decisionmaking. The Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2021 provides welcome improvements upon the 2019 version by requiring companies to assess the impacts of automated systems, create transparency commitments, and empower consumers to make informed choices about the automation of critical decisions.” Excerpt from IEEE’s support [letter](#).

- **Fight for the Future**

- **Access Now**

“Opaque and often-biased algorithms are deciding who has access to housing, education, and other opportunities, and we should be concerned,” said Willmary Escoto, U.S. Policy Analyst at Access Now. “The tech firms who deploy these automated decision systems usually answer to no one. By requiring companies to assess the impacts of the systems they use and sell, this bill will help combat algorithmic discrimination in defense of human rights.” -Jennifer Brody, U.S. Advocacy Manager at Access Now.

- **Brandie Nonnecke, PhD (Leading AI expert)**

- **JustFix**

"Tenant screening algorithms often bar otherwise qualified renters, including many Justfix users, from accessing safe, secure housing. These algorithms, controlled by just three or four industry players, often use arbitrary credit information that has no bearing on tenants' ability to pay. This information is used as a proxy to discriminate against marginalized communities. Tenant screening algorithms also frequently provide factually incorrect information, misidentifying tenants with common names or mismatching credit information, while denying tenants an opportunity to dispute or correct that information. The Algorithmic Accountability Act will provide crucial transparency into the data inputs, testing procedures, and adverse impacts of tenant screening algorithms. This is an incredibly important step towards combatting discriminatory and unjust technologies that deny millions of Americans their right to safe, stable housing." -Georges Clement, Executive Director of JustFix.

- **Openminded**

- **The Open Technology Institute (OTI)**

“OTI is excited to support this bill, which will help develop important insights and norms around impact assessments and lay the groundwork for the broad adoption of this

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accountability mechanism.” -Spandi Singh, Policy Analyst, New America's Open Technology Institute.

- **National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)**
- **AI For the People**