SUTHERLAND INSTITUTE STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

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The Impact of AI on the Workforce

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I. Introduction

On behalf of the Sutherland Institute, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement for the record regarding the hearing topic, " The Impact of AI on the Workforce." While national discourse often focuses on the controversies and potential risks of AI and the infrastructure that powers AI models, it frequently overlooks a critical reality: Artificial intelligence is already improving life for working Americans through its impact on education, government, health care, and family life. Additionally, new data centers are providing real workforce benefits for Americans.

In February 2026, the Sutherland Institute released a report titled "25 Ways AI is Helping People Flourish", authored by myself and Derek Monson.[1] This report outlines a pro-human approach to artificial intelligence that seeks to *empower* workers with better tools and *enable* problem-solving at an unprecedented scale. One purpose of the report is to encourage policymakers to ensure that any regulatory framework does not jeopardize the proven pro-human benefits that AI is already delivering. It is contradictory to call AI safeguards pro-human if they eliminate the present or future benefits of this technology to human beings.

We adapted the findings of this report to focus on the beneficial impacts of AI for Americans in the workforce.

[1] https://sutherlandinstitute.org/25-ways-ai-is-helping-people-flourish/

II. Education: Empowering the Teacher Workforce

- **Reducing Burdens on Teachers:** Tools like SchoolAI in Utah help teachers spend less time on administrative duties and more time focusing on instruction. This shift allows educators to give more personalized attention to their students' unique needs.
- **Protecting Teacher and Student Safety:** New monitoring systems powered by AI automatically detect firearms on campuses through security camera feeds. By enhancing situational awareness, these tools provide an additional layer of protection against school shootings and enable faster emergency response.
- **Improving the Teaching Experience:** AI tools are adapting instruction to each student's unique strengths, weaknesses, and pace. This technology allows teachers to pursue personalized learning plans with students, which increases student engagement and improves overall outcomes – increasing the number of rewarding teaching experiences for educators.

III. Government: Improving Civic Service

- **Strengthening Stewardship of Taxpayer Dollars:** AI-generated "digital twins" allow administrators to improve the efficiency of taxpayer dollars by 20% to 30% by improving simulation of public infrastructure projects before construction begins.
- **Reducing Wasted Time:** AI tools reduce routine administrative tasks, allowing civil servants to spend up to two weeks of time annually on high-value work rather than paperwork.
- **Helping Civil Servants Under Attack:** AI helps election officials flag errors in processes and simulate various security scenarios. These applications are making the experience of running elections better at a time in which election officials are increasingly under attack for just doing their job.
- **Serving Emergency Responders:** AI is helping screen non-emergency calls to speed up 911 response times. This ensures that emergency operators can stay focused on life-threatening situations while other needs are addressed.

IV. Health Care: Better Lives for Health Workers

- **Reducing Medical Errors That Create Liability:** A new Utah pilot program detects dangerous medication interactions to better protect doctors and pharmacists from errors that may harm patients and create legal liability.
- **Magnifying Medical Expertise:** AI detects breast cancer in mammograms with increased speed and accuracy, increasing the ability of oncologists to save lives.

- **Decreasing Burdens on Doctors:** Providers are using AI to analyze large health cardiology data records that are traditionally difficult for humans to process.
- **Treating Patients Better and Faster:** Doctors use AI algorithms to scan for skin cancer in five minutes with 99.9% accuracy. This allows doctors to treat more patients more quickly.

V. Family Life: Improving Work-Life Balance

- **More Time to Spend with Children:** Virtual AI assistants help busy working parents better manage daily tasks and focus on their children when they're at home and their work when they're at work.
- **Better Home Repairs for Working Americans:** Companies like Remi use AI to simplify the process of replacing a home's roof. This makes life better for both working families who may struggle to take time off for time-consuming home repairs, and for the home repair workforce that serves them.

VI. Data Centers: The Physical Infrastructure of AI

Data centers do more than power the benefits of artificial intelligence. They also create meaningful workforce opportunities across industries. In addition to supporting high-paying jobs for skilled tradespeople, many of the nation's leading data center developers have established workforce development programs that equip American workers with in-demand skills and expand pathways to long-term careers.

- **Meta's America's Workforce Academy:** Meta is investing $115 million to provide cost-free, accelerated training for electricians, welders, plumbers, fiber technicians, mechanics, and related trades. Participants are guaranteed a job after graduating.[2]
- **Google's Support for Skilled Trades Initiative:** Google has committed $50 million to help train more than 300,000 workers across 20 states by directly contributing to existing labor unions and trade and contractor associations.[3]
- **OpenAI Partners with North America's Building Trades Unions:** OpenAI's partnership with NABTU supports apprenticeship programs for workers. The partnership also covers workforce planning, safety, labor standards, permitting, and recruitment for AI data centers and associated energy infrastructure.[4]

[2] https://www.meta.com/actions/americas-workforce-academy/
[3] https://blog.google/company-news/outreach-and-initiatives/google-org/skilled-trades/?
[4] https://usa-works.org/usa-jobs/openai-and-nabtu-partner-to-boost-ai-infrastructure-apprenticeships/?

VII. Conclusion: A Call for Balanced Innovation

As a society, we are in the beginning stages of a civilization-altering technological change. While controversial uses draw attention, AI is quietly and consistently improving our lives behind the scenes and promising even bigger life improvements in the future. The regulatory decisions made today will determine whether AI remains a source of human flourishing or becomes a generational lost opportunity. We urge the Subcommittee to follow a balanced, pro-human path that protects against harm without stifling the many essential ways AI is helping Americans thrive, both today and tomorrow. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written statement.

About the Sutherland Institute

The Sutherland Institute is a nonpartisan policy organization dedicated to influencing public policy based on the principles of the American Founding. We believe that a free society is best preserved by empowering individuals, families, and communities.