Chairman Will Hurd
Opening Statement

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Information Technology Hearing
"Game Changers: Artificial Intelligence Part I"

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Welcome to the first hearing in a series of hearings on artificial intelligence. This series is an opportunity for the Subcommittee to take a deep dive into artificial intelligence. Today's hearing is an opportunity to increase Congress' understanding of artificial intelligence, including its development, uses, and the potential challenges and advantages of government adoption of artificial intelligence. We have four experts on that matter whom I look forward to hearing from.

In the next hearing we do in March, we will hear from government agencies about how they are or should be adopting artificial intelligence into their operations. How they will use AI to spend taxpayer dollars wisely and make each individual's interactions with the government more efficient, effective, and secure. It is important that we understand both the risks and rewards of artificial intelligence, and in the third hearing in April we will discuss the appropriate roles of both the private and public sectors as artificial intelligence matures.

Artificial intelligence is a technology that transcends borders. We have allies and adversaries, both nation states and individual hackers, who are pursuing artificial intelligence with all they have because dominance in artificial intelligence is a guaranteed leg up in the realm of geopolitics and economics. At the end of this series it is my goal to ensure that we have a clear idea of what it takes for the United States to remain the world leader when it comes to artificial intelligence. Thoughtful engagement by legislators is key to this goal and I believe that this committee will be leaders on this topic.

So what is artificial intelligence? Hollywood's portrayal of artificial intelligence is not accurate. Instead many of us are already using it every day - from song recommendations in Spotify to digital assistants that tell us the weather. And while these consumer applications are important, I am most excited about the possibility of using artificial intelligence in the government to defend our infrastructure and have better decision making because of the analytics that artificial intelligence can run.

In an environment of tightening resources, artificial intelligence can help us do more for less money and help to provide better citizen facing services. I thank the witnesses for being here today, and look forward to hearing and learning from you so that we can all benefit from the revolutionary opportunities AI provides us. As always, I'm honored to be exploring these issues, in a bipartisan fashion, I think the IT subcommittee is a leader on doing things in a bipartisan

way, with my friend and Ranking Member, The Honorable Robin Kelly from the great state of Illinois.