

The Honorable Lori Trahan
1616 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2026

Dear Representative Trahan:

We write as a coalition of advocacy organizations that has been working for the past year to block efforts by industry actors and the Trump Administration to preempt state AI regulatory authority. You have been a strong supporter of that effort in the past, but we are now deeply troubled to hear you are in advanced negotiations with the House's lead proponent of preemption, Republican Representative Jay Obernolte, on an agreement to preempt some state AI laws coming that you told a reporter could come together within days.¹

We urge you to stand strong for commonsense AI protections and reject any deal that would preempt state AI laws.

Massachusetts has been a leader in pushing forward the frontiers of AI science and innovation while building the kind of forward-looking, nation-leading state regulatory framework that has given the Commonwealth an economic edge throughout our history.

Conversely, Representative Obernolte has been the Republican at the tip of the spear in the House for the Trump administration's effort to strip states of their authority to protect their residents from AI harms, including last year's deeply unpopular AI moratorium that you helped us to defeat.²

However, federal preemption remains the primary AI policy priority of the White House, championed by the very officials and donors funding Leading the Future, the Big Tech AI super PAC bankrolled by Trump's biggest allies at OpenAI, Palantir, and Andreessen Horowitz. LTF is spending hundreds of millions of dollars in the midterms to push this dangerous deregulatory agenda.³ Helping these California billionaires to limit states' abilities to protect their residents and regulate their economies would irrevocably mar your up-to-now strong record as an advocate for digital safety.

Parents, workers, students, teachers, and young people across Massachusetts' Third District are depending on you not to hand the wealthiest companies in the world a free pass to override state laws. Massachusetts is leading states across the country to step up where Congressional leadership has failed, including by writing and passing laws designed to protect young people

¹ Punchbowl News - [Tech: Obernolte–Trahan AI talks 'going really well'](#) (Ben Brody, 5/13/26); Politico - [House talks look at blocking some state AI laws, including in California and New York](#) (Brendan Bordelon, 5/15/26)

² [Big Tech Keeps Selling AI. The Public Still Isn't Buying It.](#) (Public Citizen, 4/27/26)

³ Washington Post - [Tech moguls close to Trump see the midterms as a path to long-term power](#) (Nitasha Tiku, 12/19/25)

from social media's predatory AI-driven algorithms and the fast-emerging dangers of AI chatbots. Laws that could be threatened by preemption include Massachusetts' MGL c. 265, § 43A, which prevents deepfake revenge porn, as well as safety-by-design Kids Code laws across the country – in addition to related proposals under active consideration in Massachusetts, such as Governor Healey's recent social media protections bill.⁴

We understand the urgency you feel to act at the federal level. The pace of AI development has rightly raised concerns across Congress. But that urgency is precisely why we must not allow a bad deal to be locked in by the very industry actors who are most opposed to legislation designed to protect us.

We know you as a champion in Congress on our issues. You have built deep, trusted relationships with survivor parents, youth advocates, and children's safety organizations who have looked to you as a leader.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you on legislation that would create a federal baseline for AI regulation without preempting states like Massachusetts that have done the hard work of protecting their residents while Congress has remained gridlocked – one that reflects what people in Massachusetts and across the country are asking for, not what Big Tech AI companies and their allies in the Trump Administration and the Republican House demand.

We urge you to walk away from these negotiations and to publicly state that you will not support a federal AI bill that preempts state law. At this critical moment, your constituents, the broader public, and the advocates who have trusted you for years are all counting on your leadership.

Sincerely,

The Tech Oversight Project

AFT - American Federation of Teachers

All Girls Allowed

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Economic Liberties Project

ANew Life International

Blue Rising

California Survivor Coalition

⁴ [Governor Healey Proposes Social Media Protections for Teens](#) (MA Governor's Office, 4/14/26)

Center for Countering Digital Hate

Children's Advocacy Institute

Demand Progress

Design It For Us

Digital Childhood Institute

Economic Security Project Action

Encode AI

Equal Rights Advocates

Erik's Cause

Fairplay

Four Norms

Future of Life Institute

Greenpeace USA

Lynn's Warriors

MAMA - Mothers Against Media Addiction

National Center on Sexual Exploitation

National Employment Law Project

NC Stop Human Trafficking

NH Traffick-Free Coalition

NTEN

Oakland Privacy

Open MIC (Open Media and Information Companies Initiative)

P Street

Parent Coalition for Student Privacy

Parents RISE!

ParentsTogether Action

Paving the Way Foundation

Project Liberty

Public Citizen

SAVE - Suicide Awareness Voices of Education

Scrolling 2 Death

Sexual Violence Prevention Association

socialmediaharms.org

Survivor Leader Network of San Diego

TechTonic Justice

The Carson J. Bride Effect

The Society of Composers & Lyricists

Transparency Coalition

Turning Life On, Massachusetts