



## ***The Artificial Intelligence Weapons Accountability and Risk Evaluation (AWARE) Act***

### **Background:**

While the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has been a leader in establishing responsible policies regarding the use of autonomous weapons—as highlighted by [DoD Directive 3000.09](#)—emerging artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities necessitate a broader perspective, clear risk governance, and swift action. As AI quickly evolves, it is necessary for Congress to have a clear understanding of how this technology is embedded in our defense systems and how it may impact our national security posture.

### **Legislation:**

The *AWARE Act* will bolster DoD's ethical technology leadership by ensuring all covered AI-enabled weapons, targeting, and related decision support systems are accounted for, and results are made available to Congress. This legislation prioritizes transparency, requiring comprehensive risk assessments, documentation of AI deployments in critical systems, and information sharing pathways to enable Congressional oversight. Notably, this legislation does not prohibit or limit any current DoD operations or dependencies on AI technologies.

The *AWARE Act* will:

- Create a risk assessment process that minimally evaluates the following criteria: bias, bias towards escalation, dependability, cybersecurity, privacy, and risk of civilian harm;
- Apply the aforementioned risk assessment to any AI-enabled weapons, targeting, or decision support systems (that directly support weapons or targeting systems);
- Require DoD to conduct an annual risk assessment for all covered systems, and conduct a new risk assessment when technology is procured, the weapons review process is initiated, or when there is an update to an underlying AI model;
- Catalogue the covered technologies and assessment outcomes in a risk ledger that is unclassified to the extent possible but may include a classified appendix;
- Annotate which of these technologies have been exported, shared, or used by a foreign person or government; and
- Report to Congress annually on the progress of implementing this Act, the ledger itself, and a summary of findings.

**Endorsers:** The *AWARE Act* is endorsed by Access Now, Brennan Center for Justice, and Public Citizen.