Trustworthy by Design A.I. Act

Introduced By: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.)

Background:
The rapid advancement of A.I. offers opportunities to improve government processes and enhance efficiency. However, A.I. can also cause significant harm to public institutions and the American public in the absence of safe and secure development. Both industry developers and A.I. users have identified gaps in available guidance on how to measure A.I. trustworthiness, which is necessary to support meaningful A.I. innovation and ensure continued consumer trust for critical A.I.-powered services.

Establishing clear processes for evaluating the trustworthiness of A.I. systems is aligned with ongoing executive branch efforts, including President Biden's Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence and President-elect Trump's (former) Executive Order on Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government.

Legislation:
The *Trustworthy by Design A.I. Act* aims to address realistic, short-term challenges created by unregulated A.I. technologies by establishing best practice guidelines for all phases of A.I. development. The legislation would direct the National Institute of Security and Technology (NIST) to establish a trustworthy-by-design framework to more proactively and systematically manage A.I. risk, create definitions for key trustworthiness evaluation criteria, and identify system components that should be evaluated throughout every stage of A.I. product development.

The *Trustworthy by Design A.I. Act* would also help ensure that A.I. models are reliable, safe, and secure. The bill would minimize bias across a wide range of use cases, including A.I. systems' impact on legally protected classes and risks associated with the use of synthetic content for system development. Additionally, the legislation would establish reporting requirements for NIST to Congress to ensure the proposed guidelines meet the U.S. Government's needs and standards.

Supporting Organizations:
The *Trustworthy by Design A.I. Act* is supported by Accountable Tech, Encode, Public Knowledge, and the Transparency Coalition.