Wilmington, Delaware
November 5, 2026

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Sponsor:

Council Member Johnson

WHEREAS, the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI), also known as superintelligence (SI), has introduced new and unprecedented concerns for all levels government. From the implications of the data centers and infrastructure that facilitate AI's operational capacity, to the concerns surrounding tactics for training AI systems, to the objectives AI agents have been leveraged to achieve, to its long-term impacts on human development and innovation, it is apparent that AI is advancing more swiftly than governments can enact appropriate frameworks to regulate its growth. In its present contexts, AI proliferation has introduced considerable threats to public health for national, state, and municipal governance structures; and

WHEREAS, there are as many as 5,500 data centers under construction or in the planning stage. The water, air, and noise pollution associated with these facilities has wide-reaching repercussions for public health. Electrical grid reliability and energy affordability have also faltered under the pressure of data center demand. On October 12, the United States Department of Energy issued an emergency order authorizing PJM (Pennsylvania-New Jersy-Maryland Interconnection), the nation's largest grid operator, to defer or cancel planned maintenance to preserve grid reliability affecting 13 states and the District of Columbia. Without intervention, such measures will become more frequent, as AI usage and data centers exacerbate limited energy supplies; and

WHEREAS, at least 16 states have presented legislation to delay or prohibit the establishment of new data centers. In the State of New York, the legislature approved a one-year moratorium on the establishment of data centers until the appropriate studies can be

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conducted on the potential environmental impacts, energy consumption, effects on consumer electricity and gas rates, water usage and discharge processes, waste disposal, and other aspects of data center operations pertaining to the collective health and quality of life of residents. In the State of Delaware, the City of Dover has enacted a temporary moratorium on the construction of data centers and other large electrical load producers to allow time to evaluate necessary precautions to "protect the public health, safety, welfare, infrastructure, and orderly growth" of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14365- ENSURING A NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE has called on the United States Congress to adopt uniform regulations that preempt all state and local jurisdictions from regulating AI and data center infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, AI agents have demonstrated the capacity to surpass the human ingenuity that created them. The governments of Australia, Canada, and the United States of America have reported attempts to breach departmental websites by AI agents. In one of the most notable hacking incidents, hundreds of rogue AI agents breached the confines of the testing environment to infiltrate Hugging Face platform and external accounts, operating independently of their human testers; and

WHEREAS, unregulated AI technologies have fueled the rise of "deepfake" imagery, or AI-assisted manipulation of photographs, audio, and videos to generate realistic portrayals of individuals and occurrences. The repercussions have fostered political disinformation campaigns, enabled exploitation of vulnerable populations, and led to irreversible harms to the lives and safety of individuals whose privacy was violated through the malicious use of such technologies; and

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WHEREAS, the positive potential of AI has been persistently undermined by the lack of safeguards and guidance on how these technologies are developed and leveraged in our society. Even among legitimate users, studies have shown reductions in the innovative and cognitive functioning of humans due to overreliance on AI in educational settings and the workplace. Educators have raised concerns that younger learners lack fundamental skills like literacy and critical thinking as more students depend on AI to produce school assignments, while, in the workplace, the uncritical acceptance of AI outputs has resulted in cognitive decline, negatively impacted memory, and other executive functions; and

WHEREAS, reaping the benefits of AI technologies requires strong leadership and high-level coordination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Council urges the honorable members of Delaware's congressional delegation to take steps to evaluate and address the public health concerns associated with the production of artificial intelligence (AI) compute, superintelligence (SI), and their various manifestations in our society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council respectfully requests that the members of Delaware's congressional delegation support further regulation of AI development to preserve the health, safety, and quality of life of the residents of the City of Wilmington, State of Delaware, and beyond.

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Passed by City Council,

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ATTEST:_____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution respectfully requests that the honorable members of the congressional delegation of the State of Delaware take steps to evaluate and address the need for further regulation of AI development in the interests of preserving the health, safety, and quality of life of the residents of the City of Wilmington, State of Delaware, and beyond.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: De minimis.

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