

AI Policy Newsletter

April 20, 2026

At a Glance

- On April 1, the Department of Commerce launched its [Call for Proposals for the American AI Exports Program](#), responding to President Trump's executive order aimed at promoting the American AI tech stack globally. Applications from "Pre-Set Consortium" offering a complete technology stack will be accepted until June 30. Eligible tech stacks must include AI-optimized hardware, data pipelines and labeling systems, AI models and systems, security and cyber security measures, and AI applications for sector-specific functional use cases. Applications for "On-Demand Consortium" in direct response to a specific, identified export opportunity will be released at a future date.
- On April 22, the House Foreign Affairs Committee is slated to markup additional legislation including the [Multilateral Alignment of Technology Controls on Hardware \(MATCH\) Act](#), which would restrict the sale of semiconductor manufacturing equipment (SME) to foreign adversaries and the [Deterring American AI Model Theft Act of 2026](#), which seeks to "prevent foreign adversaries from threatening the national security of the United States by extracting key technical features of closed-source, American-owned artificial intelligence models." The Committee has been taking an active role in AI legislation so far this year, including approving the [Chip Security Act](#) in late March. That legislation would "prevent advanced American chips from falling into the hands of adversaries like Communist China" and require location verification for advanced chips, enforce mandatory reporting, and require the Department of Commerce to study additional safeguards.
- The previewed release of Anthropic's new model, Claude Mythos, is creating concern among lawmakers and administration officials over its purported ability to identify – and potentially exploit – cyber security vulnerabilities. Anthropic briefed government officials before the launch, prompting Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to call a [special meeting](#) with the CEOs of major U.S. banks to discuss the tool and its implications for cyber defenses. Now, the [White House](#) is looking to give agencies access to the new model "in the coming weeks," as the fallout from Anthropic's battle with the Pentagon continues to play out (more on that below). In addition, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei met with White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles last week – his second high-stakes meeting with a senior Trump official this year – in what sources describe as an effort to pave the way for a broader deal.

What Else You Need to Know

Administration and Federal Updates

- The Anthropic-Pentagon dispute continues to move through the courts. On April 8, a panel of federal judges in D.C. [denied a motion](#) to block the Department of Justice from labeling Anthropic as a supply chain risk, upholding a bar on new contracts with the agency. This is one of two cases Anthropic has brought against the Trump administration over the designation. In a separate ruling at the end of March, a federal judge in California [temporarily blocked](#) the administration's order requiring all federal agencies to cease using Anthropic models, allowing the company to continue certain federal and defense contracts.
 - On April 10, White House officials reportedly [called](#) lawmakers in Missouri and Tennessee, urging Republican lawmakers to scale back AI restrictions in state bills addressing safety, transparency, and child protection.
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- On March 25, the U.S. Energy Information Administration [announced](#) a pilot survey to evaluate data center energy use including energy sources, electricity consumption, and cooling systems. The survey will include field studies in Texas, Washington, Northern Virginia, and Washington DC. In late March, Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) [wrote](#) a letter for EIA Administrator Tristan Abbey offering support for establishing mandatory annual reporting requirements noting the implications of “extraordinary energy demands” required to operate data centers for grid reliability, air quality, and electricity prices.

Hill Happenings

- On April 16, the House Select Committee on the CCP released an investigation on China’s semiconductor building and AI development practices called [Buy What It Can, Steal What It Must: China’s Campaign to Acquire Frontier AI](#). The Committee report details that among other things, China both procures large amounts of AI chips legally and operates complex smuggling operations to acquire restricted chips. The report also offers support for passing legislation including the MATCH Act, AI OVERWATCH Act, SCALE Act, and Remote Access Security Act. The Committee also held a hearing on Thursday titled “[China’s Campaign to Steal America’s AI Edge](#)” to discuss the report.
- On April 15, the Senate Commerce Committee held an [oversight hearing](#) of the Federal Trade Commission which included significant discussion of AI, including finding the balance between promoting innovation and ensuring the protection of the “four Cs:” Children, creators and copyright holders, communities, and against censorship. There was also significant discussion around the use of algorithmic pricing, and calls from Chairman Ferguson for a national privacy framework.
- On April 15, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing titled, “[Computing Power and Competition: Examining the Semiconductor Ecosystem](#),” which centered on the need to strengthen domestic semiconductor manufacturing as China accelerates its efforts to proliferate its tech stack worldwide. Members and witnesses discussed both the implementation and future of the CHIPS and Science Act, China’s control of critical materials essential to the chip supply chain, domestic workforce shortages, and the role of trade policy in helping to onshore chip production.
- On April 8, a coalition of retired generals, former Department of Defense officials, and AI companies [wrote](#) to the House and Senate Armed Services Committee leadership urging Congress to include \$2 billion over the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) for a National AI Reliability and Control Initiative (NAIRCI) in the upcoming NDAA. The letter cites Operation Epic Fury – where U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) struck 1,000+ Iranian targets using AI-enabled systems on day one – as evidence that commercially-built AI is outpacing the reliability standards needed for wartime use.
- On March 26, Representatives Don Beyer (D-VA), Mike Lawler (R-NY), and Sara Jacobs (D-CA) introduced the [AI Foundation Model Transparency Act](#) which would direct the Federal Trade Commission, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to set standards for what information “high impact foundation models” must provide to the government and to the public. Notably, the Representatives discussed models including ChatGPT, Grok, Claude, and Gemini in their press release.

International, State and Third-Party Perspectives

- On April 14, Maine’s legislature [approved](#) an 18-month pause on approvals for new data centers requiring more than 20 megawatts of power, along with a companion bill stripping data centers of certain business tax exemptions. Whether Governor Mills signs [the bill](#) remains an open

question; she had conditioned her support on an exemption for a proposed data center in Jay – a rural town that lost 200+ jobs when its paper mill closed in 2023 – but an amendment to that effect was defeated in the House 115-29.

- Stanford has released its [2026 AI Impact Report](#), which among other things, found that the performance gap between U.S. and Chinese AI models has narrowed significantly over the past 2 years. The report notes that “The U.S. still produces more top-tier AI models and higher-impact patents, while China leads in publication volume, citations, patent output, and industrial robot installations.” The U.S. also leads globally in data centers and AI investment, according to data in the report.
- On April 7, the CEO of European company [Mistral AI](#) released an AI playbook for Europe to seize the AI moment, compete with the U.S. and China, and ensure autonomy. The playbook calls for driving demand for domestic AI, securing strategic sectors, and empowering European players, highlighting the need for domestic control over AI and infrastructure.
- On March 30, the Financial Reporting Council [released guidance](#) for the use of generative and, potentially, agentic AI tools by auditing firms, noting the potential for enhancing audit quality and emphasizing the importance of mitigating risks.
- During a March 26 [meeting](#) between U.S. officials and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), both countries acknowledged that the rapidly growing AI sector is a priority, and agreed to increase cooperation between the nations on this issue.
- The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) [filed comments](#) opposing GSA's proposed General Service Acquisition Regulation (GSAR) clause that would govern AI procurement, arguing its requirements – including an “American AI systems” mandate, broad IP and data rights provisions, and prime contractor liability for third-party service provider compliance – are technically unworkable and conflict with the Trump Administration's own goals of leveraging commercial technology to drive cost savings.
- OpenAI [published](#) *Protecting Children in the Age of Generative AI*, a policy framework developed with the Attorney General Alliance's AI Task Force and NCMEC, calling on states to update CSAM statutes to cover AI-generated and digitally altered material, clarify attempt liability, and establish good-faith safe harbors for providers conducting detection and safety research. The blueprint also sets reporting quality standards for CyberTipline submissions and recommends layered technical safeguards — including prompt-level attempt detection, generation refusal controls, and human oversight for high-risk escalations.

A Few Interesting Reads

- **Corporate AI adoption is getting real** ([Axios](#)): According to a new Morgan Stanley report, one-quarter of S&P 500 companies mentioned at least one quantifiable impact from AI in the first quarter of 2026. Tech companies led the way with finance and communications coming in second and third.
- **Allbirds spikes more than 350% on pivot from sneakers to AI** ([Business Insider](#)): Sustainable footwear company Allbirds announced it will sell the brand and pivot into AI computing infrastructure. The company - now named NewBird AI - framed the pivot as the company stepping up to meeting a growing gap in the supply of critical AI computing power.
- **AI ruling prompts warnings from US lawyers: Your chats could be used against you** ([Reuters](#)): As people increasingly turn to AI for advice, lawyers are advising clients not to treat

communications with AI chatbots as confidential. The legal guidance comes following a ruling that the former CEO of a bankrupt financial services company could not shield his AI chats from prosecutors pursuing securities fraud charges against him.

- **Why many Americans are turning to AI for health advice, according to recent polls** ([Associated Press](#)): About a quarter of adults in the U.S. have used an AI tool for health information or advice in the past 30 days, according to a new Gallup survey. The survey shares the top three reasons people are turning to AI: 1) wanting answers quickly, 2) wanting additional information and 3) being curious about what AI would say.
- **Sam Altman May Control Our Future - Can He Be Trusted?** ([The New Yorker](#)): Former OpenAI employees, board members and family accuse OpenAI CEO Sam Altman of ongoing deception, questioning whether Altman can be trusted with his power.