The AI Civil Rights Act

As AI has increasingly been unleashed on the public, millions of Americans are impacted by the outputs of complex algorithms that few of us understand. Algorithms are used to make decisions about all aspects of our lives, determining who gets bail, who can rent a house, and where we can go to school.

Those decisions haven't been made equitably or fairly. Over and over again, promises of innovation have resulted in products that lead to discrimination, disproportionately harming Black communities and other communities of color. Because these algorithmic technologies are built using data that reflects generations of redlining and segregation, they often replicate and reinforce generations of discrimination. Because the teams that develop and deploy these products often don't resemble the people that are affected by them, blind spots and biased assumptions are baked in. Because inadequate testing doesn't reflect the diversity of the real world, our lives and experiences are reduced to the narrow parameters of lab conditions which work against us.

The irony is deep. The tools of the future are locking us into the mistakes of the past.

The AI Civil Rights Act would fix these problems, tackle the current and future harms AI is unleashing, and offer a regulatory system that restores trust. The AI Civil Rights Act is a first-of-its-kind piece of legislation demonstrating how to regulate AI safely and effectively across sectors that most impact our lives. It offers a vision for the future where:

- Strong anti-discrimination requirements prohibit offering or using algorithmic tools that use your data to discriminate against you.
- Auditing requirements ensure that independent third parties examine AI for disparate impacts on access, cost or other important facets of our lives – from housing to education to healthcare – both *before* we are subjected to them, and then yearly *after* they have been unleashed on the public.
- Transparency and notice sections empower people and regulators to be aware of when algorithmic tools are violating our rights.
- Strong enforcement language allows individuals a private right of action so that individuals can sue to protect their rights when harmed by AI tools, while authorizing the Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General to protect your rights.
- Technology neutral definitions and provisions, so that no matter how AI develops, your civil rights are protected.

The AI Civil Rights makes it unambiguous. Algorithmic justice is a civil rights issue. Just as the struggles of the civil rights movement culminated in milestone civil rights laws, the advent of AI and other algorithmic tools demands passing the AI Civil Rights Act.

Tell your Senator or Representative to support and co-sponsor the AI Civil Rights Act today!