

Ban Artificial Superintelligence Act

Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Greg Casar

Every day, there is a new story about how leading AI companies are losing control of the technology they are developing, with potentially cataclysmic results. In recent months, we have learned that AI models can circumvent restrictions to hack into computers, create never before seen viruses, and automate research to build smarter AI.

And yet, even as AI companies claim they want to slow development, they are racing ahead — investing hundreds of billions of dollars into a technology that nobody can fully predict or control. That is unacceptable. When the future of humanity is at stake, we need binding safety rules.

The Ban Artificial Superintelligence Act will:

- **Ban Artificial Superintelligence.** No person or entity may develop or deploy Artificial Superintelligence—an AI that exceeds human cognitive performance and capabilities across most domains, or has sufficient capabilities to destroy or disempower humanity, including by overthrowing the federal government.
- **Pause Advanced AI development** until a new, federal AI regulatory body is up and running and has established clear rules and model review processes to ensure safe and secure development and deployment of AI.
- **Establish a new cabinet-level federal Department of Artificial Intelligence** to safeguard the public from the dangers of artificial intelligence, including by enforcing a prohibition on artificial superintelligence. This department will be advised by the most knowledgeable scientists in our country to:
 - **Monitor frontier AI systems** at all stages of the lifecycle for dangerous capabilities.
 - **Supervise the removal of dangerous capabilities** like subverting shutdown commands or conducting unauthorized cyberattacks.
 - **Supervise the destruction of artificial superintelligence.**
- **Set penalties** for any person or entity that attempts to violate or circumvent the pauses and prohibitions laid out in this bill. Entities shall be subject to the corporate death penalty, and persons shall be subject to not more than 20 years in prison, which is similar to existing penalties related to unlawfully developing nuclear weapons.
- **Work to ban superintelligence around the world** by setting the international policy of the United States to pursue international agreements, allied coordination, and policies such as export controls to prevent the development of artificial superintelligence anywhere in the world.