

IBM's 2020 Public Policy and Legislative Issues

HIGHEST PRIORITY: TACKLING COVID-19

SUPERCOMPUTING POWER: In March of this year, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the U.S. Department of Energy launched an unprecedented effort to bring the power of supercomputing to fight COVID-19. With an initial capacity roughly equal to around 2 million laptops, the [COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium](#) is helping researchers worldwide accelerate scientific discovery for treatments and a cure. The HPC Consortium is supported by six of America's national labs, academic institutions such as MIT and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and other technology providers. IBM is proud to have convened this effort. In parallel, [IBM Summit](#), the world's fastest supercomputer, has already helped researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee rapidly identify promising drug compounds that could aid the fight.

TRUSTED DATA AND INSIGHTS: IBM developed a precise "incident map" that provides trusted local information on COVID-19 cases and made it available via the IBM-owned Weather Channel app and [weather.com](#). This resource allows citizens, state and local health authorities to visualize data on a county level -- from confirmed cases and potential outbreak areas, to availability of tests. This data, available from government agencies up to the World Health Organization, is analyzed and refreshed every 15 minutes on the IBM Cloud -- it is provided free and in English and Spanish. [IBM's newly-launched Watson Assistant for Citizens](#) "chatbots," combine analytics, speech recognition and natural language processing to help government agencies and other organizations deal with unprecedented volumes of requests from citizens, and to quickly get them the critical information without long telephone hold times. These assistants have been deployed across the country and overseas -- they provide health guidance from national agencies and local sources that includes links to school closings, regional health news, information on unemployment claims and documents.

"CALL FOR CODE" TO ENABLE FIRST RESPONDERS: IBM created "Call for Code" a program for independent developers to work COVID-19 issues. The program has brought more than 210,000 participants from 165 nations and created more than 8,000 applications focused on natural disaster preparedness and relief. Today, IBM is marshalling resources for the ["Call for Code Global Challenge"](#) to focus on COVID-19, specifically improving communication for medical teams and emergency services, and improving remote learning for millions of students around the world. This will be built on open source software and powered by IBM Watson, with data from The Weather Company.

Contact: Yelena Vaynberg, yvaynbe@us.ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com

KEY POLICY ISSUES

INVEST IN MODERNIZED GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY: IBM supports *significant funding* of the Technology Modernization Fund for meaningful investment in federal IT modernization. Further, IBM supports Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-VA) commitment to increase TMF Funding. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress recognized the need to modernize federal IT, and in 2017 created the Technology Modernization Fund, TMF. The goal of TMF is to enable agencies to reimagine and transform their use of technology to deliver their mission and services to the American public in a more effective, efficient, and secure manner. To date, nine projects across six agencies have received funds from the \$125M Congress has appropriated since 2018. The current national crisis highlights the need for additional IT investments to ensure federal agencies have modern technology capabilities and infrastructure that can scale to more effectively respond to this, and any future crisis -- **much of the government's \$90B annual technology spend goes towards operation and maintenance of legacy systems that have not kept pace with changing technology.** To address these critical gaps, IBM recommends that any additional pandemic legislative relief package include TMF funding that can be quickly allocated to agencies with appropriate oversight for rapid adoption of emerging technologies that support critical modernization efforts, and help address numerous technology and related risks identified during the current response to COVID-19. **Contact: Cheryl Bruner, Cheryl_Bruner@us.ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com**

COMPETITIVE 5G MARKET BASED ON OPEN TECHNOLOGIES: IBM supports measures to promote the adoption of open standards and open source-driven architecture to power 5G infrastructure that is more cost effective, flexible, innovative, and secure. To that end, IBM supports S. 3189, the USA Telecommunications Act, especially the funding provision to accelerate the development and deployment of equipment that uses open standards to put the

IBM's 2020 Public Policy and Legislative Issues

U.S. and international partners on a path to establish a competitive and open 5G marketplace. IBM also believes any national 5G strategy should have open technologies as its foundational tenet to promote economic growth, leverage U.S. industry's strengths, and enhance security.

Contact: Joshua New, joshua.new@ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com

TRUSTWORTHY AI -- PRECISION REGULATION: IBM supports a precision regulation approach to promote innovation *and* protect consumers by regulating AI based on use-cases and end users, rather than the underlying technology. We support policies that advance the five business imperatives that we have called for in our [IBM Policy Lab](#) piece - having an AI ethics official; different rules for different risks; don't hide your AI, and test your AI. That is why we supported the National AI Initiative Act which directs NIST to develop an accountability framework to advance explainable fair and trustworthy AI.

Contact: Ryan Hagemann, Ryan.Hagemann@ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com

CYBERSECURITY: Increased reliance on digital networks, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, underscores the need for a strong national cybersecurity posture. IBM supports protecting the national digital infrastructure through policies that are robust, flexible and based on international standards. Specifically, IBM supports: (1) precision regulation to address defined national security threats to the global digital supply chain, (2) policies that do not undermine industry standard protections, such as encryption, when addressing government access to data for law enforcement purposes, and (3) increased cybersecurity resources for state and local entities.

Contact: Katie Ignaszewski, kignasze@us.ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com

IMMIGRATION REFORM -- DACA FIX: IBM has several dozen DACA employees who serve in technical, marketing, finance and sales roles across multiple states. For this reason, we strongly support a yet-to-be-developed bi-partisan permanent legislative solution for DACA work-authorized individuals that would provide them with legal protections and a permanent means for remaining in the United States with the ability to work and live their lives openly. An immediate legislative solution is the only way to provide necessary protections and certainty for our employees.

Contact Meredith Singer, singerme@us.ibm.com & Yelena Vaynberg, yvaynbe@us.ibm.com

QUANTUM COMPUTING APPROPRIATIONS: IBM strongly supports the President's FY21 budget request for funding of \$237M for the National Quantum Initiative at the Department of Energy Office of Science and recommends an additional \$100M for dedicated access to quantum computing systems. This additional initiative will support system access to industry, government, and academic research, as well as development and skill for workforce growth.

Contact Mark O'Riley, moriley@us.ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com

SECTION 230 REFORM: IBM believes that liability protections for online service providers should be conditioned on a showing of "reasonable care" in content moderation. With great power comes great responsibility, and a reasonable care standard would help ensure those companies most in a position to address these concerns are incentivized to limit illegal and illicit behavior online, while also being flexible enough to promote continued online innovation. We are supportive of legislation that would reform Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act by conditioning liability protections on reasonable care in content moderation without unnecessarily impeding the development and deployment of encryption and other cybersecurity technologies.

Contact: Ryan Hagemann, Ryan.Hagemann@ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com

DATA PRIVACY LEGISLATION: IBM strongly supports national legislation to protect consumers' privacy. The fight against COVID-19 underscores the importance of preserving privacy while implementing innovative solutions using data. Legislation should: (i) provide consumers with basic rights, such as the right to know what personal data is collected, used, and shared, and the right to exert control over that data; (ii) place primary responsibility for protecting personal data and privacy on organizations that collect or handle that data; (iii) avoid overly prescriptive requirements that might impede development of emerging technologies, including privacy-enhancing ones; (iv) require businesses to protect consumers' privacy by assessing and mitigating risk; and (v) enhance the enforcement authority of the Federal

IBM's 2020 Public Policy and Legislative Issues

Trade Commission as the lead U.S. privacy supervisory agency. National privacy legislation must also prevent a patchwork of state privacy laws and create a uniform, national standard to protect the privacy of U.S. consumers. IBM urges Congress to advance strong, bipartisan privacy legislation this year.

Contact: Marc Williams, marcwill@us.ibm.com & Kevin Walsh, kevin.j.walsh@ibm.com

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT: IBM urges Congress to advance bipartisan Higher Education Act (HEA) legislation that will better prepare more students to enter the workforce with skills needed for lifelong success. An updated HEA should include: (i) Assistance for shorter-term programs of study that students can use to obtain valuable certifications (i.e. workforce Pell); (ii) Internships and other work experience in their area of study with private-sector employers through increased Federal Work Study funding and flexibility, (iii) Additional pathways to credentials such as apprenticeships, competency-based and distance learning, and collaborations between new providers of higher education and traditional colleges and universities, (iv) transfer of credit provisions to ensure that students can transfer credits earned between higher education institutions that are both funded and accredited under the HEA. Career-oriented provisions in this legislation will help students secure jobs in growth industries and close a persistent skills gap that has become severe in the information technology sector.

Contact Ned McCulloch, nmcculloch@us.ibm.com