Senator Schumer Opening Statement
Sixth AI Insight Forum
November 8, 2023

Good afternoon. Welcome to our sixth bipartisan AI Insight Forum, focused on the intersection of AI, privacy and liability.

I want to begin by offering my sincere thanks to Senators Rounds, Heinrich, and Young for helping organize this, our sixth Forum. It is a lot of work to put these together, and you and your staffs have been incredible partners.

Thanks also to my Senate colleagues and staff in the audience.

And, of course, thanks to our participants. It was a top priority to bring together a balanced group like this.

Our discussion will be split into two sections, each lasting an hour.

Senator Young and I will lead the first section on privacy.

Senators Heinrich and Rounds will lead the second section on liability.

One of the most significant challenges in the age of AI will be maximizing AI's benefits to society while protecting the fundamental right to privacy.

This is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and the advancement of AI technologies will increase the need for thoughtful policy protections ten-fold.

Many AI systems rely on vast amounts of data to train their algorithms, often including personal information like names, addresses, financial and medical records, and more.

AI and data are inextricably linked. We see it everywhere today, from social media to advertising, AI is already using our data to curate what we see on the internet.

But advances in this cutting-edge technology could allow for much more problematic uses of AI, such as emotional manipulation.

And as AI is further ingrained into our social world, it even risks taking the place of friends or significant relationships. This used to be science fiction, but now it's increasingly closer to reality.

This is the crux of the issue: the same technology that can enrich our lives can also intrude on our privacy in unprecedented ways.

So, designing and enforcing safeguards for privacy is critical for keeping trust in AI systems.

We must know when and how to hold AI companies accountable when that trust is violated. That will be the focus of our conversation on liability.

So, we have a lot of ground to cover today.