PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUM ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WITH SEN. MIKE ROUNDS TO KEYNOTE

WASHINGTON, DC – The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) will hold a public forum on Thursday, July 11th on the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in counterterrorism and related national security programs, and privacy and civil liberties issues associated with these uses of AI. The forum, which will help the Board scope and define its oversight of AI-related issues, will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. No registration is required to view this event, which will be livestreamed at www.pclob.gov.

South Dakota Senator Mike Rounds, co-chair of the Senate AI Caucus and a member of the Bipartisan Senate AI Working Group, will deliver the forum’s keynote address at the start of the event. Sen. Rounds sits on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

“We look forward to holding a public discussion about the privacy and civil liberties implications of the use of AI in counterterrorism and national security more broadly,” PCLOB Chair Sharon Bradford Franklin said. “Hearing from a range of experts with different backgrounds and perspectives will help inform our agency’s future oversight efforts on critically important issues regarding use of AI that have growing potential to affect all Americans.”

Following Sen. Rounds’s remarks, the PCLOB’s forum will feature two panel discussions.

The forum’s first panel will feature former White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Acting Director Dr. Alondra Nelson, former Office of the Director of National Intelligence Chief Technology Advisor Dean Souleles, National Institute of Standards and Technology Senior Scientist Elham Tabassi, and Special Competitive Studies Project Senior Intelligence Director Chip Usher.

The second panel includes Center for Democracy and Technology AI Governance Lab Director Miranda Bogen, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Counsel Clare Garvie, George Mason Law School National Security Institute Director Jamil Jaffer, and Justice Department Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer Peter Winn.
The first panel will discuss AI in the broader context of national security. It will examine a variety of questions such as:

- How is the federal government using AI in current efforts to combat terrorism and protect national security? What is possible? What is being considered?
- How can AI best assist in counterterrorism efforts? How can or should AI be used for targeting, behavioral profiling, signals analysis, intelligence analysis, and prediction?
- What new threats are created by AI’s use by adversaries or malicious actors?

The second panel will focus more closely on potential privacy and civil liberties risks and harms associated with the use of AI in national security. Among other things, this panel may examine the following questions:

- What privacy or civil liberties risks does the use of AI exacerbate?
- How might bias, non-transparency, or unreliability in AI systems harm individuals? How can that harm be detected or mitigated?
- What, if any, limits should be put on the use of AI in counterterrorism to mitigate these risks?

Both panel discussions will address questions related to AI reviewability and oversight, such as:

- What recourse do people or agencies have if AI malfunctions, misbehaves, or is otherwise somehow tricked or simply unreliable?
- How do we ensure that humans have the final say over AI? Is this an overblown concern?
- Can AI ever completely replace humans in certain counterterrorism roles?

For further information, please contact Public and Legislative Affairs Officer Alan Silverleib at alan.silverleib@pclob.gov or pao@pclob.gov.

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The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is an independent agency within the Executive Branch established by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. The Board’s mission is to ensure that the federal government’s efforts to prevent terrorism are balanced with the need to protect privacy and civil liberties. The Board’s current Members are Sharon Bradford Franklin, Chair, Edward W. Felten, Travis LeBlanc, and Beth A. Williams.