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Encode Applauds Release of California AI Working Group's Draft Report

Report Recommendations for 3rd Party Auditing and Whistleblower Protections Include Key Provisions of SB 1047, to Improve AI Safety

Sacramento, CA – Encode, a youth-led advocacy organization dedicated to advancing safe and responsible artificial intelligence, applauds the release of [a new draft report released for comment](#) by the Joint California Policy Working Group on AI Frontier Models, which was created last year by Governor Newsom in his veto of AI safety legislation SB 1047.

“We have been eager to see the Working Group’s recommendations and look forward to taking action to improve AI safety,” said **Nathan Calvin, Vice President of State Affairs and General Counsel at Encode**, which was a sponsor of SB 1047 last year and is sponsoring SB 53 this year to establish whistleblower protections for AI employees. “This report provides a great starting point to build more transparency and accountability for a safer future. Encode supports its clear emphasis on proactive transparency, accountability, and public oversight. Californians deserve to know how the largest AI companies are mitigating serious potential risks to public safety.”

The Working Group acknowledges the rapid advancement of AI capabilities and the increasingly urgent nature of the risks these models may pose to society. It also highlights the importance of the critical and limited window we have for policymakers to act. The report calls for robust "supplementary verification mechanisms" – like third-party auditing – to ensure companies abide by and are held accountable to basic safety measures.

“Encode appreciates the Working Group’s attention to whistleblower protections, recognizing these as essential, burdenless tools to ensure responsible AI development,” said **Adam Billen, Vice President of Public Policy at Encode**. “Transparency coupled with third-party auditing could create a 'race to the top' in industry safety practices, rewarding rather than punishing companies who proactively uphold rigorous standards.”

The report, developed under the leadership of Dr. Fei-Fei Li (Stanford), Dr. Jennifer Tour Chayes (UC Berkeley), and Mariano-Florentino “Tino” Cuellar (President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), lays out a thoughtful set of recommendations informed by scientists and experts across civil society and academia.