

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish the United States Commission on Human Dignity, and for
other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish the United States Commission on Human
Dignity, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Human Dignity and
5 Emerging Technologies Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
9 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
2 and Transportation of the Senate; and

3 (B) the Committee on Science, Space, and
4 Technology of the House of Representatives.

5 (2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
6 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term
7 in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence
8 Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

9 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
10 means the United States Commission on Human
11 Dignity established by section 3.

12 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

13 There is established within the legislative branch of
14 the Federal Government an independent, advisory com-
15 mission to be known as the “United States Commission
16 on Human Dignity”.

17 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

18 The purpose of the Commission is to provide inde-
19 pendent advice to the Federal Government, including Con-
20 gress, on the ethical and policy dimensions of develop-
21 ments in emerging technologies such as artificial intel-
22 ligence to inform Federal policy. In carrying out this pur-
23 pose, the Commission shall recognize the geopolitical di-
24 mensions of emerging technologies, including the challenge

1 posed by foreign state actors whose documented use of
2 such technologies threatens human dignity.

3 **SEC. 5. COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.**

4 (a) MEMBERSHIP.—

5 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be
6 composed of 17 members, of whom—

7 (A) 5 members shall be appointed by the
8 President;

9 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
10 majority leader of the Senate, 2 of whom shall
11 be chosen on the recommendation of the minor-
12 ity leader of the Senate;

13 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2 of
15 whom shall be chosen on the recommendation
16 of the minority leader of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives; and

18 (D) 4 members shall be appointed by the
19 appropriate congressional committees, with 2
20 members appointed by the respective chairs and
21 2 members appointed by the respective ranking
22 members of each committee.

23 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed
24 under paragraph (1) shall be selected only from
25 among those who have demonstrated expertise and

1 integrity in the fields of philosophy, ethics, civil
2 rights, religion, social sciences, science, technology,
3 medicine, or law.

4 (3) APPOINTMENT DEADLINE.—Members shall
5 be appointed to the Commission under paragraph
6 (1) not later than 180 days after the date of the en-
7 actment of this Act. If 1 or more appointments
8 under paragraph (1) is not made by the appoint-
9 ment date, such position shall remain vacant until
10 filled in the same manner in which the original ap-
11 pointment was required to be made.

12 (b) TERMS.—Members of the Commission shall serve
13 5-year terms, except that a member of the Commission
14 may continue to serve after the expiration of the term of
15 such member until a successor is appointed.

16 (c) REMOVAL.—A member of the Commission may
17 only be removed from the Commission for cause.

18 (d) CHAIRMAN; VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Commission
19 shall, by majority vote, select a Chairman and Vice Chair-
20 man from among its members to serve 2-year terms in
21 those offices. Neither office shall control the budget of the
22 Commission independently of a vote of the members of the
23 Commission.

24 (e) STAFF.—The Chairman, in consultation with the
25 Commission, shall appoint an Executive Director and such

1 professional staff as are necessary to carry out the duties
2 of the Commission, subject to the approval of the appro-
3 priate congressional committees.

4 (f) SPACE FOR USE OF COMMISSION.—Not later than
5 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 Administrator of General Services, in consultation with
7 the Commission, shall identify and make available suitable
8 excess space within the Federal space inventory to house
9 the operations of the Commission. If the Administrator
10 is not able to make such suitable excess space available
11 within such 180-day period, the Commission may lease
12 space to the extent the funds are available.

13 (g) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall meet
14 and begin the operations of the Commission as soon as
15 practicable.

16 (h) QUORUM.—After its initial meeting, the Commis-
17 sion shall meet upon the call of the Chairman or a major-
18 ity of the members of the Commission. Nine members of
19 the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

20 (i) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Commission
21 shall not affect its powers but shall be filled in the same
22 manner in which the original appointment was made.

23 **SEC. 6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES.**

24 (a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Commission shall—

1 (1) defend the inherent dignity of the human
2 person understood as unique, embodied, and en-
3 dowed with a rational and moral nature, without re-
4 gard to capability or condition, within Federal
5 science and technology policy; and

6 (2) cultivate humility in Federal science and
7 technology policy regarding technological mastery
8 over human nature amid geopolitical competition.

9 (b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall carry out its re-
10 sponsibilities described in subsection (a) by carrying out
11 the following duties:

12 (1) Creating and updating materials, such as
13 statements and principles to inform Federal science
14 and technology policy.

15 (2) Undertaking ongoing inquiry into the bio-
16 ethical implications of the following developments in
17 science and technology:

18 (A) Robotics.

19 (B) Artificial intelligence.

20 (C) Biotechnologies.

21 (D) Neurotechnologies.

22 (E) Emerging clinical technologies.

23 (3) Monitoring Federal science and technology
24 programs, supported research, regulatory proposals,
25 and emerging scientific and technological develop-

1 ments for threats to the inherent dignity of the
2 human person.

3 (4) Holding public hearings and receiving testi-
4 mony from philosophers, ethicists, religious leaders,
5 social scientists, scientists, technologists, medical
6 professionals, legal scholars, and affected members
7 of the public on Federal science and technology pol-
8 icy.

9 (5) Annually issuing a report to the President
10 and appropriate congressional committees with find-
11 ings, policy options, and recommendations, with the
12 opportunity for individual members of the Commis-
13 sion to offer dissenting views, to inform how Federal
14 science and technology policy should align with the
15 Commission's responsibilities under subsection (a).

16 (6) Producing additional targeted reports or ad-
17 visory opinions, as warranted, in line with the re-
18 sponsibilities set forth in subsection (a).

19 **SEC. 7. OVERSIGHT AND ETHICS.**

20 (a) CONGRESSIONAL INPUT AND OVERSIGHT.—

21 (1) EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND POLI-
22 CIES.—Upon the request of an appropriate congres-
23 sional committee, the Commission shall, to the ex-
24 tent practicable, evaluate a Federal science and tech-
25 nology program or policy that is in effect.

1 (2) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION AND DOCU-
2 MENTS.—The Commission shall make available for
3 inspection any information and documents requested
4 by an appropriate congressional committee and re-
5 spond to any requests to provide testimony before an
6 appropriate congressional committee.

7 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—On
8 request by the Chairman or by a majority vote of the Com-
9 mission, the head of a Federal agency shall furnish infor-
10 mation to the Commission.

11 (c) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The Commission
12 shall be advisory only. Nothing in this Act shall be con-
13 strued to authorize the Commission to issue regulations,
14 compel action, adjudicate rights, enforce law, or otherwise
15 regulate any private person.

16 (d) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Commission
17 shall adopt, and make publicly available, a written conflict-
18 of-interest policy for its members and staff. The policy
19 shall establish procedures for the disclosure, review,
20 recusal, and resolution of actual or apparent conflicts of
21 interest. It shall be consistent with Federal ethics laws and
22 with the ethics rules of the Senate and the House of Rep-
23 resentatives, as applicable.

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Com-
3 mission \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
4 2031 to carry out the duties of the Commission.

5 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

6 The Commission shall terminate on October 1, 2032.