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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a National Security and  
Defense Artificial Intelligence Institute, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. JACKSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a National  
Security and Defense Artificial Intelligence Institute, 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 “Growing University  
5       AI Research for Defense Act” or the “GUARD Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE ARTIFICIAL IN-**  
2                   **TELLIGENCE INSTITUTE.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may es-  
4   tablish at least one National Security and Defense Artifi-  
5   cial Intelligence Institute (referred to in this section as  
6   an “Institute”) at an eligible host institution.

7           (b) INSTITUTE DESCRIBED.—A National Security  
8   and Defense Artificial Intelligence Institute referred to in  
9   subsection (a) is an artificial intelligence research institute  
10  that—

11           (1) is focused on a cross-cutting challenge or  
12   foundational science for artificial intelligence sys-  
13   tems in the national security and defense sector;

14           (2) establishes partnerships among public and  
15   private organizations, including, as appropriate,  
16   Federal agencies, institutions of higher education,  
17   including community colleges, nonprofit research or-  
18   ganizations, Federal laboratories, State, local, and  
19   Tribal governments, and industry, including the De-  
20   fense Industrial Base and startup companies;

21           (3) has the potential to create an innovation  
22   ecosystem, or enhance existing ecosystems, to trans-  
23   late Institute research into applications and products  
24   used to enhance national security and defense capa-  
25   bilities;

1           (4) supports interdisciplinary research and de-  
2           velopment across multiple institutions of higher edu-  
3           cation and organizations; and

4           (5) supports workforce development in artificial  
5           intelligence related disciplines in the United States.

6           (c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
8           may seek to award financial assistance to an eligible  
9           host institution, or consortia thereof, to establish  
10          and support one or more Institutes.

11          (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Financial assistance  
12          awarded under paragraph (1) may be used by an In-  
13          stitute for—

14                (A) managing and making available to re-  
15                searchers accessible, curated, standardized, se-  
16                cure, and privacy protected data sets from the  
17                public and private sectors for the purposes of  
18                training and testing artificial intelligence sys-  
19                tems and for research using artificial intel-  
20                ligence systems with regard to national security  
21                and defense;

22                (B) developing and managing testbeds for  
23                artificial intelligence systems, including sector-  
24                specific test beds, designed to enable users to

1 evaluate artificial intelligence systems prior to  
2 deployment;

3 (C) conducting research and education ac-  
4 tivities involving artificial intelligence systems  
5 to solve challenges with national security impli-  
6 cations;

7 (D) providing or brokering access to com-  
8 puting resources, networking, and data facilities  
9 for artificial intelligence research and develop-  
10 ment relevant to the Institute's research goals;

11 (E) providing technical assistance to users,  
12 including software engineering support, for arti-  
13 ficial intelligence research and development rel-  
14 evant to the Institute's research goals;

15 (F) engaging in outreach and engagement  
16 to broaden participation in artificial intelligence  
17 research and the artificial intelligence work-  
18 force; and

19 (G) such other activities as may deter-  
20 mined by the Secretary of Defense.

21 (3) DURATION.—Financial assistance under  
22 paragraph (1) shall be awarded for a five-year pe-  
23 riod, and may be renewed for not more than one ad-  
24 ditional five-year period.

1           (4) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSIST-  
2       ANCE.—A eligible host institution or consortia there-  
3       of seeking financial assistance under paragraph (1)  
4       shall submit to the Secretary of Defense an applica-  
5       tion at such time, in such manner, and containing  
6       such information as the Secretary may require.

7           (5) COMPETITIVE, MERIT REVIEW.—In award-  
8       ing financial assistance under paragraph (1), the  
9       Secretary of Defense shall use a competitive, merit-  
10      based review process.

11          (6) COLLABORATION.—In awarding financial  
12      assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary of De-  
13      fense may collaborate other departments and agen-  
14      cies of the Federal Government with missions that  
15      relate to or have the potential to be affected by the  
16      national security implications of artificial intelligence  
17      systems.

18          (7) LIMITATION.—No financial assistance au-  
19      thorized in this section shall be awarded to an entity  
20      outside of the United States. All recipients of finan-  
21      cial assistance under this section, including sub-  
22      grantees, shall be based in the United States and  
23      shall meet such other eligibility criteria as may be  
24      established by the Secretary of Defense.

1       (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible  
2 host institution” means a senior military college (as de-  
3 fined in section 2111a(f) of title 10, United States Code).