



State of California

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July 15, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Chairman

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Janna Sidley

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 348 (Chang) - As Amended 5/17/2019

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 348 (Chang), which would require the Director of the Department of Technology to produce a strategic plan to use artificial intelligence (AI) technology to improve state services.

In its 2018 report, *Artificial Intelligence: A Roadmap for California*, the Commission noted strides made by California state government to improve internal and external operations and services through AI technology. The Commission concluded, however, that California state government as a whole was ill-prepared for the inevitable changes brought by artificial intelligence. Among its recommendations, the Commission called for (1) the Governor to appoint a special advisor on artificial intelligence to develop a statewide strategic plan that incorporates AI within state government; (2) the designation of a chief AI officer within certain independent offices to partner on developing a statewide AI strategy; and (3) the creation of strategic plans for the use of artificial intelligence technology to improve state services and minimize the impact on the agency's workforce and job classifications.

SB 348 would advance the goals of the Commission's recommendations and help the Department of Technology focus on the strategic development and use of AI technology for the benefit of Californians. For these reasons the Little Hoover Commission supports SB 348 and encourages an AYE vote. If I or my staff can provide any further assistance as the bill moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

C: Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations; Luke Reidenbach, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations; Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission