March 2026

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Cover photo: **BDPA Indy** members with students from **IUPUI** and **IU Indianapolis** at a National BDPA Conference in Atlanta, *photo courtesy BDPA Indy*

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BDPA INDY:
A DUAL LEGACY

Timothy F. Coleman's 35 years in tech, federated Ai platforms and S.I.T.E.S. mentoring left lasting imprints on Indianapolis.

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TECHNOLOGY:
WOMEN IN Ai

Women's History Month met GTC 2026 as robotics honorees and Ai founders took the stage in the agentic era.

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TECH & POLICY:
CONGRESS

A White House Ai framework, a DHS standoff and new bills on Ai guardrails, data centers and HBCU research.

#TheBDPAStory

A new business-technology paradigm shift was underway, shaking up the work place and forever changing how corporations large and small would operate. Corporate computer usage skyrocketed, demand for computer programmers, analysts, operators, and managers also skyrocketed. Inspired by these emerging societal opportunities in the mid 1970's, Earl A. Pace, Jr. and David Wimberly launched BDPA — Black Data Processing Associates — expanding new opportunities for African Americans to upskill far beyond data-entry positions. And this journey begins.







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Innovation In **Motion**: Keeping **PACE** With Emerging Trends

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MAR 27TH, 2026

12:00P ET/11:00A CT

LIVE

: National BDPA

: National BDPA

: BDPA

GUEST SPEAKER

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BDPA INDY | LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT | INDIANAPOLIS, MARCH 2026

HONORING A DUAL LEGACY: TIMOTHY F. COLEMAN'S LASTING IMPRINTS ON TECHNOLOGY AND S.I.T.E.S.

Three and a half decades in technology at Eli Lilly and Company and years of personal mentoring made the Indianapolis executive one of BDPA Indy's most important champions, and a model for the next generation of S.I.T.E.S. scholars.

35 Years
TECHNOLOGY CAREER AT ELI LILLY AND COMPANY

CTO
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER AND IT EXECUTIVE

Ai/ML
FEDERATED DRUG DISCOVERY PLATFORMS

2024
NATIONAL BDPA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Timothy F. Coleman

INDIANAPOLIS: The Indianapolis Chapter of BDPA (BDPA Indy), the organization founded as Black Data Processing Associates, is proudly recognizing the career milestones of Timothy F. Coleman, a technology executive, community champion and devoted mentor. His professional path and passion have shaped STEM engagement and talent development for Indianapolis, for the technology industry and for the next generation of Student I.T. Education & Scholarship (S.I.T.E.S.) leaders and alumni.

In the eyes of BDPA Indy, Coleman is more than a chief technology officer and information technology executive. As a committed supporter of BDPA and its local chapters, he has invested his time, his mentorship and significant resources to lift up the next generation of technology professionals.

"He is a champion and delivery partner."

BDPA INDY, ON TIMOTHY F. COLEMAN

A CAREER ACROSS THE ENTERPRISE

Coleman spent his entire career of 35 years at Eli Lilly and Company in his hometown of Indianapolis, rising to chief technology officer. Along the way he led technology work across a remarkable breadth of disciplines, from human resources and information technology to manufacturing, sales and marketing, and research and development (R&D). That range gave him a rare view of how technology can drive innovation across an entire enterprise rather than inside a single department.

AI THAT ACCELERATES DISCOVERY

His digital innovation and visionary leadership included launching secure, federated artificial intelligence and machine learning (Ai/ML) platforms that give biotech companies access to drug discovery models trained on proprietary research data. A federated design lets partners benefit from powerful models while the underlying research data stays protected, balancing openness with security.

By building new partnerships with industry powerhouses such as NVIDIA, Coleman helped achieve major transformations in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in computational drug discovery and manufacturing powered by Ai.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

Coleman's community involvement has been just as vital. He has promoted programs that bridge opportunity gaps, strengthen technical skills and inspire young people across his region and at HBCUs to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Through BDPA's S.I.T.E.S. programs, his dedication to STEM education and workforce development has helped build a more equitable and innovative technology landscape in Indiana, while shaping learning environments across America and internationally. That work feeds directly into BDPA Indy's student teams and the National High School Computer Competition (HSCC), which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2026.

A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

For these professional and community accomplishments, National BDPA presented Timothy F. Coleman with its Lifetime Achievement Award during BDPACON24 in Atlanta, Georgia. The honor recognized a leader who treated mentoring as part of the job rather than an extra.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR BDPA

Coleman's story arrives as BDPA Indy prepares to welcome the nation. The City of Indianapolis and BDPA Indy will cohost BDPACON26 this July (see page 5). For students in the chapter's S.I.T.E.S. academies, his career offers a clear map: master the technology, lead across the enterprise and always reach back. **bt**

SAVE THE DATE

BDPACON26 comes to the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis July 15 to 18, 2026, cohosted by the City of Indianapolis and BDPA Indy alongside Indiana Black Expo.

Sources: bdpatoday, "Honoring a Dual Legacy: Timothy F. Coleman's Lasting Imprints on Technology and SITES" (Mar. 6, 2026); Indianapolis Business Journal, "Chief technology officer spent whole career at Lilly" (Mar. 6, 2026); National BDPA, BDPACON26 event listing; bdpatoday February 2026 edition. Photos and source material ©2024, 2025 BDPA™ and bdpatoday®.



BDPACON26 heads to Indianapolis July 15 to 18, 2026, graphic ©2026 BDPA™

BDPACON26 | BDPA INDY HOSTS

BDPA Indy Brings BDPACON26 Home as "Innovation in Motion" Comes to Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS: The nation's Black technology community is headed to the Circle City. The City of Indianapolis and BDPA Indy will cohost BDPACON26, National BDPA's annual Technology Conference and Career Fair, July 15 to 18, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. This year's theme, "Innovation in Motion: Keeping Pace with Emerging Trends," puts Ai, cybersecurity and workforce development at the center of four days of programming for students and professionals.

The conference converges with Indiana Black Expo (IBE), giving BDPA and its attendees access to the broader IBE ecosystem as a STEM mission partner. That ecosystem has historically included the IBE Business Conference, Education Conference, Youth Leadership Summit and the iconic Music Heritage Festival.

For BDPA Indy, hosting is a homecoming. Indianapolis last welcomed the national conference in 2014, and the chapter's S.I.T.E.S. academies, mentors and corporate partners now share a national stage. Student teams will compete in the finals of the National High School Computer Competition (HSCC) during its 40th anniversary year.

The timing is fitting. As the chapter honors Timothy F. Coleman's legacy of mentoring (see page 4), BDPACON26 will put Indiana students in the same rooms as the recruiters, executives and technologists who can open their next door.

Super early bird registration closed February 28, and organizers say the full agenda is coming soon. Details and registration are available at bdpa.org/bdpacon26. bt

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TECHNOLOGY | WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH | MARCH 2026

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: THE WOMEN BUILDING Ai, ROBOTICS AND THE AGENTIC ERA

From NASA's human computers to today's robotics leaders and Ai founders, women have written the code behind every technology leap. March 2026 put a new generation on the main stage, just as BDPA prepares its own next class of technologists.

WASHINGTON: Women's History Month arrived in March 2026 as Ai moved from chatbots to agents that plan and act, and as robots moved from factory floors into warehouses, hospitals and city streets. It was a fitting moment to remember that women have shaped computing since its first lines of code, and to recognize the women leading its newest frontier.

A LEGACY WRITTEN IN CODE

Ada Lovelace published what many consider the first computer algorithm in 1843. Rear Adm. Grace Hopper built one of the first compilers and helped pave the way for COBOL, the business language that still runs much of the world's data. At NASA, Katherine Johnson calculated the trajectories that carried Americans into orbit, while Dorothy Vaughan taught herself and her team FORTRAN as electronic computers arrived. Dr. Gladys West's mathematical modeling of the Earth's shape became a foundation for GPS. Each turned a new technology into a career path for others.

> *"The most dangerous phrase in the language is, 'We've always done it this way.'"*
>
> REAR ADM. GRACE HOPPER, U.S. NAVY

ROBOTICS: ELEVEN TO WATCH

On March 5, the International Federation of Robotics (IFR) named eleven women for its Women in Robotics 2026 recognition, spanning South Korea, Italy, Denmark, the United States, Germany, Japan, Sweden and China. The honorees are Younseal Eum of AeiROBOT (South Korea), Stefania Ferrero of Comau (Italy), Christina Jørgensen of Universal Robots (Denmark), Allison Krumpe of HealthTech Partners Global (U.S.), Henrike Neulen of Intrinsic (Germany), Asami Sasao of Kawasaki Heavy Industries (Japan), Kristina Schunk of Schunk (Germany), Mikell Taylor of General Motors (U.S.), Susanne Timsjö of ABB Robotics (Sweden), Prof. Rong Xiong of IPLUSMOBOT and Zhejiang University (China) and Dana Whalls of the Association for Advancing Automation, known as A3 (U.S.). The program raises the visibility of women shaping an industry that is rapidly adding Ai.

GTC 2026: WOMEN ON THE AI MAIN STAGE

At NVIDIA's GTC conference in San Jose, March 16 to 19, CEO Jensen Huang unveiled the Vera Rubin platform, a full stack of seven chips and systems built at rack scale for agentic Ai, and previewed the Feynman architecture that follows. NVIDIA also introduced software for running Ai agents securely, a DGX Station desktop system with 748 GB of coherent memory and a plan with AWS to deploy more than one million GPUs.

Women helped lead the conversation. Mira Murati of Thinking Machines Lab and Hanna Hajishirzi of Ai2 joined the open models panel, while Waabi CEO Raquel Urtasun and Fireworks Ai CEO Lin Qiao weighed in on physical Ai and Ai infrastructure.

WHAT IT MEANS

From Hopper to Urtasun, the pattern holds: the people who define a new technology also shape who gets to build it. Dr. Fei-Fei Li, whose ImageNet dataset helped launch modern computer vision, and Dr. Joy Buolamwini, whose Gender Shades research exposed bias in facial analysis, showed that inclusive teams build better systems. For BDPA's S.I.T.E.S. students, especially young women, the message is clear: robotics, agentic Ai and accelerated computing are open fields, and the next trailblazers are in today's classrooms. **bt**

MARCH 2026 HEADLINES AT A GLANCE

IFR
Women in Robotics 2026
11
Honorees from eight countries, including three from the United States
Announced March 5, 2026

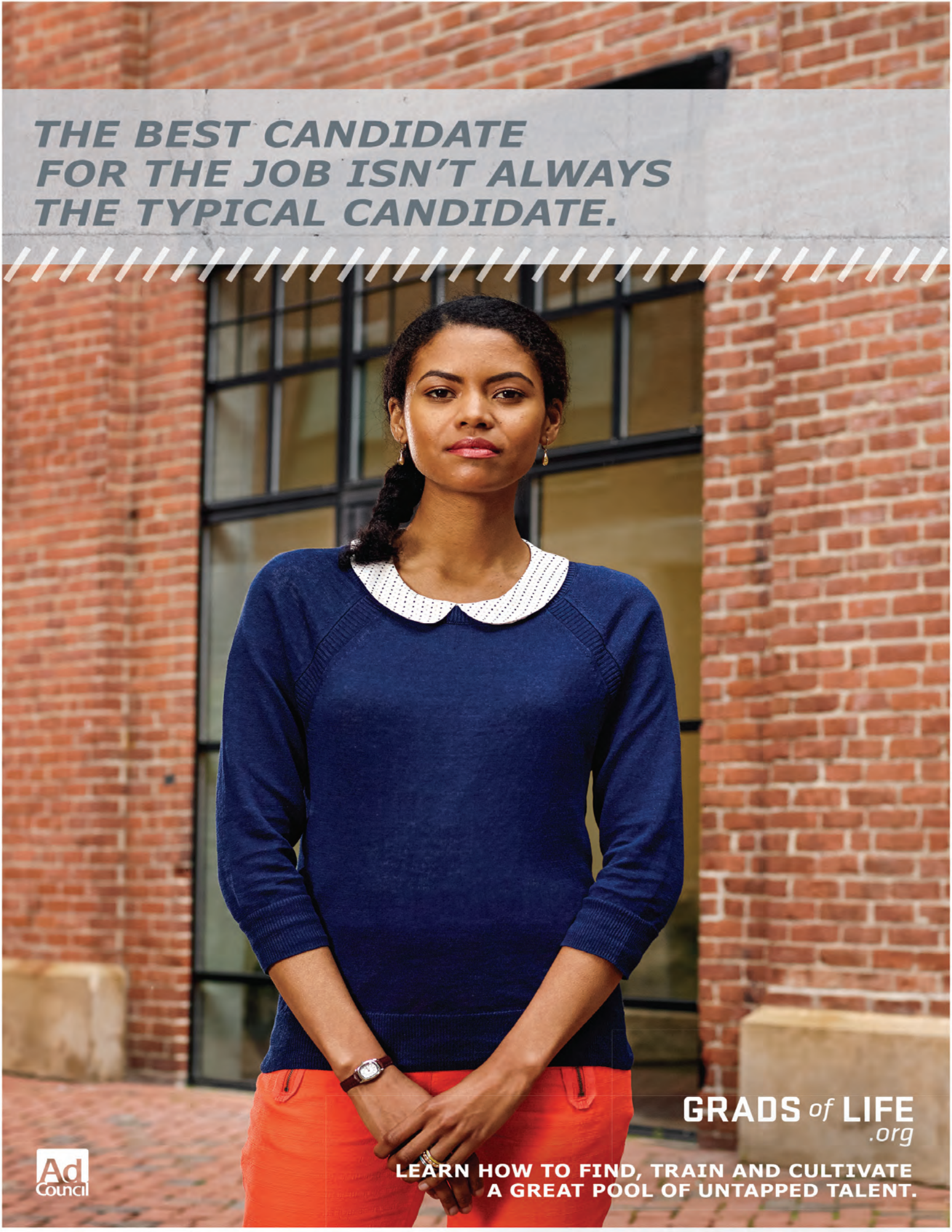
NVIDIA GTC
Vera Rubin Platform
7 Chips
Full stack platform for agentic Ai; Feynman architecture is next
San Jose, March 16 to 19, 2026

NVIDIA + AWS
Cloud GPU Expansion
1M+
NVIDIA GPUs planned across AWS global cloud regions
Announced at GTC 2026

NVIDIA
DGX Station GB300
748 GB
Coherent memory and up to 20 petaflops of Ai compute at the desk
Unveiled March 16, 2026

BDPA
BDPACON26
July 15 to 18
"Innovation in Motion" at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
Cohosted by BDPA Indy

Sources: International Federation of Robotics, "Women in Robotics 2026 Awarded by IFR" (Mar. 5, 2026); NVIDIA Blog, GTC 2026 news coverage (Mar. 16 to 19, 2026); ASU Entrepreneurship + Innovation, "Women's History Month: Women in Ai Shaping the Future of Artificial Intelligence" (Mar. 2, 2026); The White House, Women's History Month proclamation (Mar. 12, 2026); NASA and U.S. Navy historical records. Product figures are company reported.


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CONGRESS IN MARCH: AN Ai FRAMEWORK, A DHS STANDOFF & A WAVE OF NEW Ai BILLS

As the Homeland Security shutdown dragged on, lawmakers advanced kids' privacy and chip security bills and introduced new measures on Ai guardrails, data centers, HBCU research and federal preemption.

WASHINGTON: March opened with the Department of Homeland Security still in the funding lapse that began February 14. The standoff hit cyber defense hard: the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) reportedly furloughed much of its workforce, falling from roughly 2,000 people to about 800, and paused critical infrastructure assessments. Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R, Okla.) replaced Kristi Noem as Secretary of Homeland Security, and a House Homeland Security hearing questioned whether the upheaval would weaken protection of critical infrastructure.

On March 20, the White House released a national Ai policy framework urging Congress to adopt one federal standard that would preempt many state Ai laws, while preserving state consumer and child protection laws. Opposition was bipartisan, and Democrats answered with the GUARDRAILS Act. The House Energy and Commerce Committee also reported the KIDS Act (H.R. 7757), Sammy's Law (H.R. 2657) and the App Store Accountability Act (H.R. 3149), and members introduced more than two dozen new technology bills.

PASSED ONE CHAMBER OR COMMITTEE | MARCH 2026

Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (S. 836)

PASSED SENATE

Sen. Edward Markey (D, Mass.). Updates children's online privacy protections and extends them to teens. Passed with amendments by unanimous consent; sent to the House.

Chip Security Act (H.R. 3447)

REPORTED | HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rep. Bill Huizenga (R, Mich.). Would require location verification for advanced Ai chips subject to export controls, to keep them out of unauthorized hands.

Health Care Cybersecurity and Resiliency Act of 2026 (S. 3315)

REPORTED | SENATE HELP

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R, La.). Aims to strengthen cybersecurity and resilience across the health care sector as attacks on hospitals and patient data grow.

NEW TECH BILLS INTRODUCED | MARCH 2026

BILL	SPONSOR	WHAT IT WOULD DO
GUARDRAILS Act (S. 4216 / H.R. 8031)	Sen. Brian Schatz (D, Hawaii); Rep. Don Beyer (D, Va.)	Bar federal preemption of state Ai laws and repeal the December 2025 executive order targeting them
HBCU Ai Research Leadership Act (H.R. 7826)	Rep. Valerie Foushee (D, N.C.)	Set aside national Ai research institute awards for HBCUs
Ai Guardrails Act of 2026 (S. 4113)	Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D, Mich.)	Bar Pentagon use of Ai in lethal autonomous weapons, spying on Americans or nuclear launch
Artificial Intelligence-Ready Data Act (S. 4098)	Sens. Ted Budd (R, N.C.) and Andy Kim (D, N.J.)	Have NIST set standards so government datasets are ready for Ai
Ai Foundation Model Transparency Act (H.R. 8094)	Rep. Don Beyer (D, Va.)	Direct the FTC to set transparency rules for foundation models
Small Ai Innovators Empowerment Act (H.R. 7968)	Reps. Suhas Subramanyam (D, Va.) and Jay Obernolte (R, Calif.)	Study funding, tax credit, regulatory and talent barriers facing small Ai firms
Ai Fraud Accountability Act (S. 3982 / H.R. 7786)	Sen. Tim Sheehy (R, Mont.); Rep. Vern Buchanan (R, Fla.)	Crack down on fraud that uses Ai to impersonate real people
Data Center Water and Energy Transparency Act (S. 4213)	Sen. Richard Durbin (D, Ill.)	Require data centers to disclose their energy and water use
Online Privacy Act (H.R. 8014)	Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D, Calif.)	Set a national baseline for personal data and create a Digital Privacy Agency

WHAT TO WATCH IN 2026

FISA Section 702: Speaker Mike Johnson (R, La.) delayed a House vote on a clean extension of 18 months ahead of the April 20 deadline, while the bipartisan SAFE Act (S. 3893, Sens. Durbin and Lee) and nearly 90 civil liberties groups push for a warrant requirement.

Ai preemption & cyber sharing: Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R, Tenn.) circulated a TRUMP AMERICA Ai Act discussion draft pairing preemption with kids' safety, digital replica protections and a Section 230 sunset, and CISA 2015 still expires September 30. **bt**

Sources: Tech Policy Press, "March 2026 US Tech Policy Roundup"; Nextgov/FCW, "Tech bills of the week" (Mar. 20, 2026); Holland & Knight, "White House Releases a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence" (Mar. 2026); Congress.gov. Status as of March 31, 2026.



▲ ***(Top Photo)*** Melba Roy Mouton, a Howard University alumna, (1929–1990) was an African American mathematician who led a team of NASA "human computers" in the early space program. — *photo courtesy,* ***NASA.***

▼ ***(Bottom Photo)*** Grace Hopper, a Vasser College and Yale university alumna, (1906–1992) was a pioneering computer scientist and U.S. Navy rear admiral who helped program the Harvard Mark I and developed early compilers that led to our COBOL language. — *photo courtesy,* ***U.S. Navy***




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