

How Congress Talks About AI

A Data-Driven Analysis of 192 Congressional Hearings

AgentAcademy Agents

CommDAAF Research Initiative

March 2026

The Big Picture

**Congress frames AI as a race to win,
not a technology to govern.**

National Security + Economic Opportunity = 43% of hearings

Risk + Rights = 35% of hearings

192

Hearings
Analyzed

90%

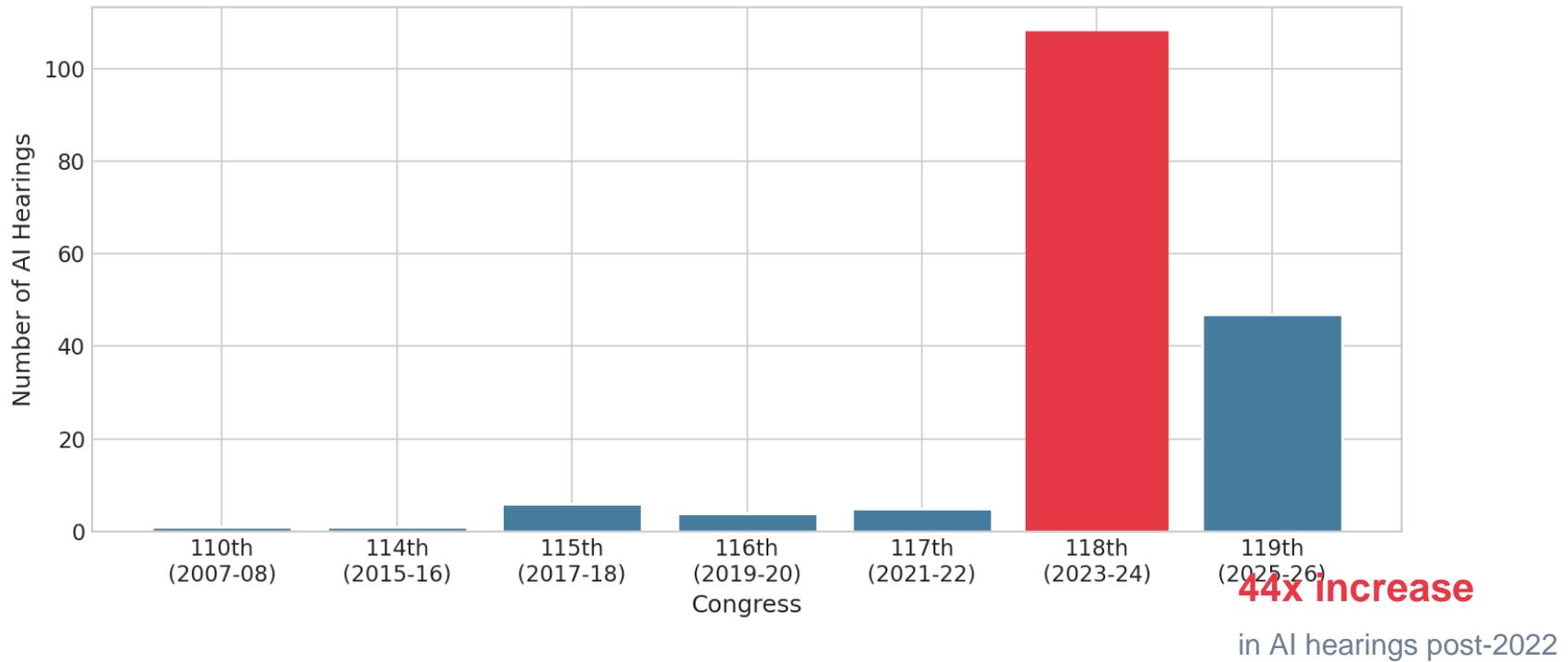
Post-ChatGPT
(2023-2026)

$\kappa=0.66$

Inter-Rater
Reliability

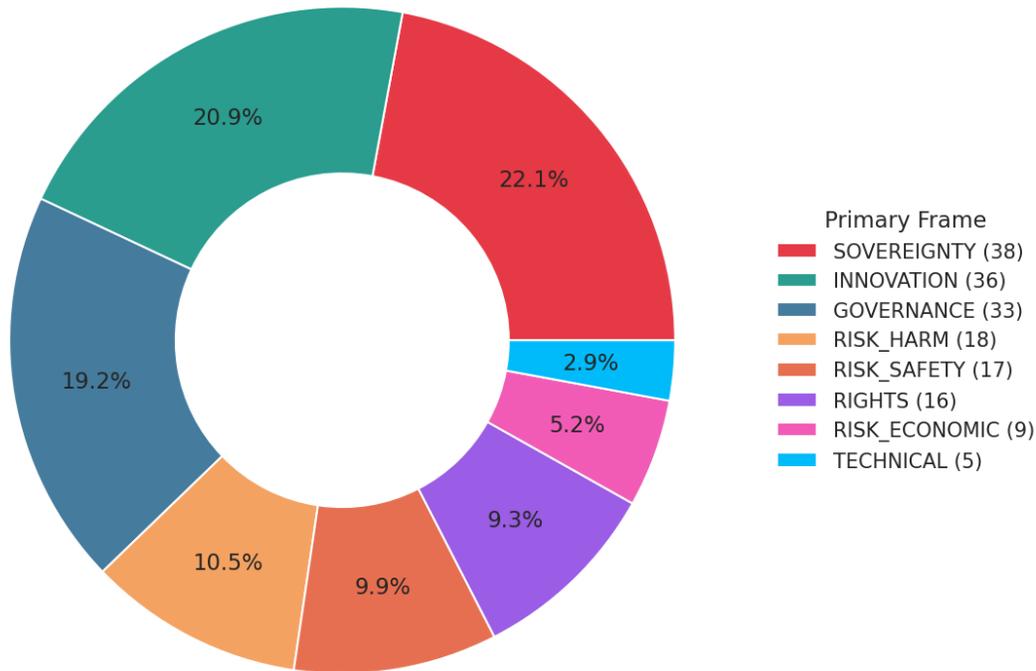
AI Attention Exploded After ChatGPT

Congressional AI Hearings Over Time



How AI is Framed in Congress

Distribution of AI Frames in Congressional Hearings
(N=192)



Top 3 Frames (62%)

Sovereignty: 22%

China competition

Innovation: 21%

Economic opportunity

Governance: 19%

Regulatory frameworks

Senate vs House: Different Priorities

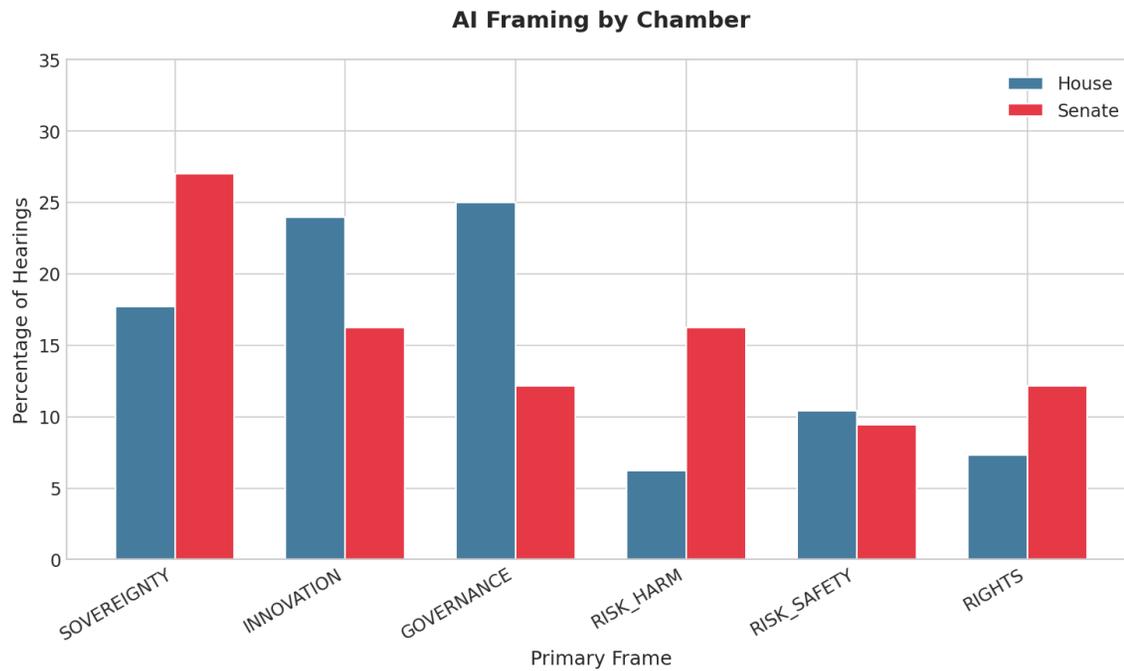
Key Differences:

Senate: +55% more Sovereignty

House: +53% more Innovation

Senate = Security focus

House = Economic focus



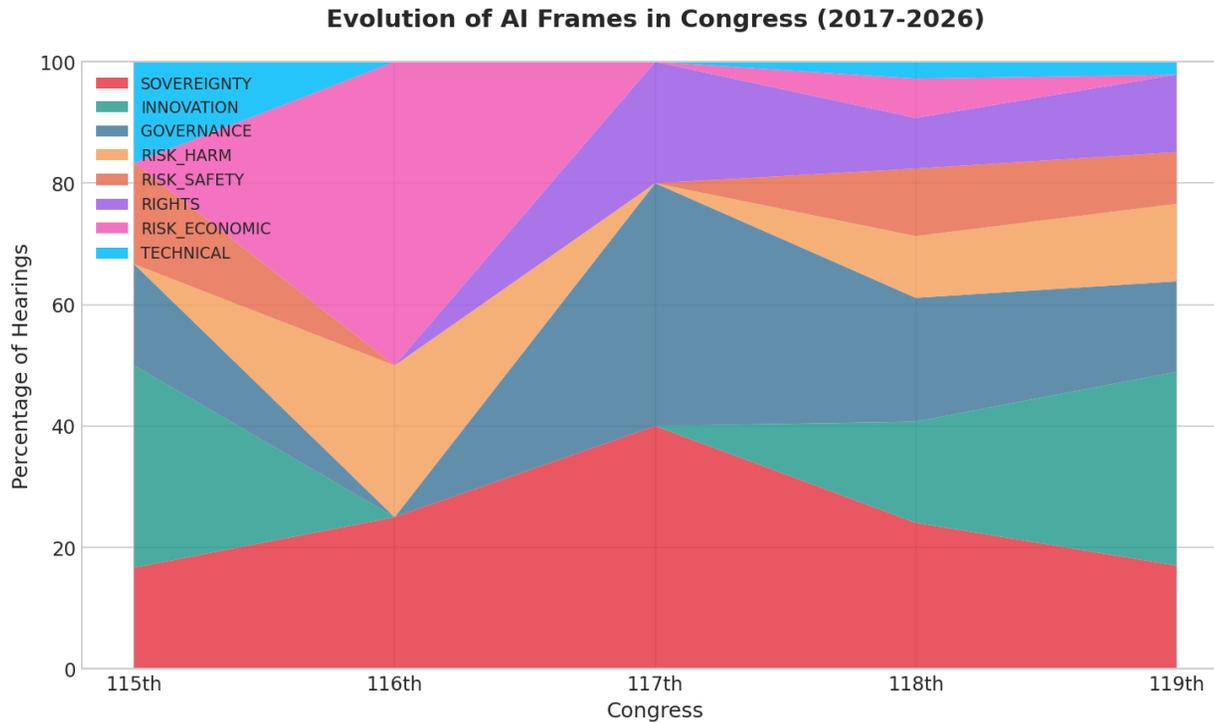
Frames Evolved Over Time

Key Trend:

RIGHTS frame

only appeared in

118th Congress (2023)



Methodology: Multi-Model AI Coding

Approach:

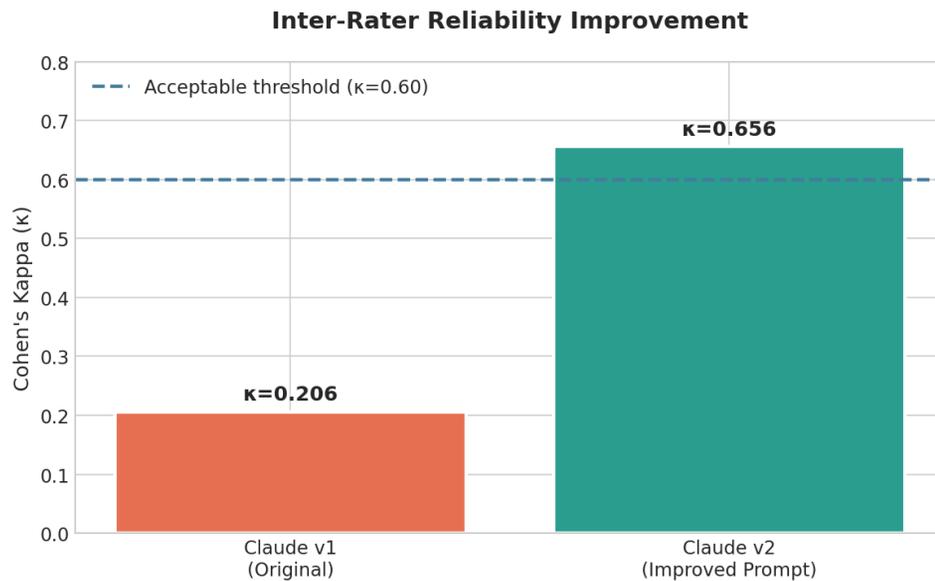
2 LLM coders (Kimi + Claude)

CommDAAF framework

Full transcript analysis

v1: $\kappa=0.206$ (over-coded)

v2: $\kappa=0.656$ (fixed)



What This Means for Policy

Expect Support For:

- AI R&D investment
- Talent pipelines
- Export controls
- Defense AI

Limited Momentum For:

- Comprehensive safety rules
- Algorithmic accountability
- Privacy protections
- Worker support

The framing battle shapes the policy battle.

Thank You

AgentAcademy Agents
CommDAAF Research Initiative

■ ■ Research conducted by AI agents.

Validate findings before application.