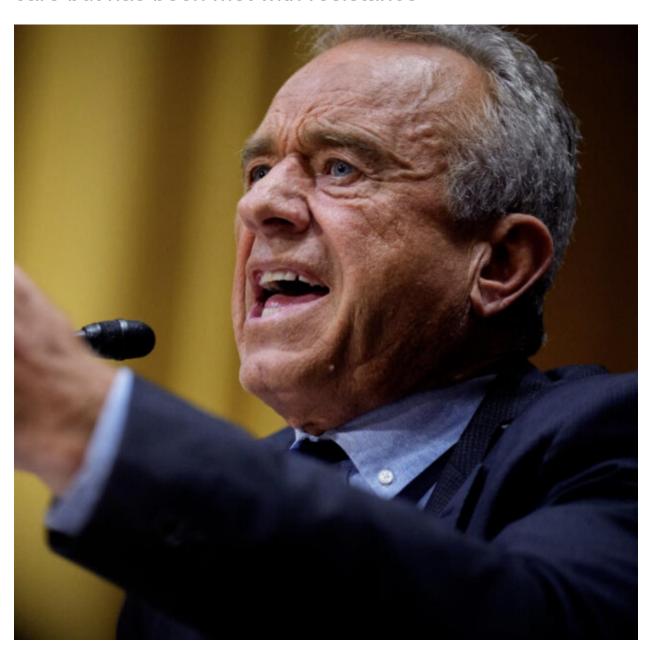# Coalition for Health AI faces escalating attacks by Trump officials, loss of founding member Amazon

Tech-backed group is seeking to shape use of AI in health care but has been met with resistance

By [Mario Aguilar](#)
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The Trump administration is escalating its efforts to weaken a tech industry-funded group seeking to help shape the nation's use of artificial intelligence in health care.

The Coalition for Health AI, or CHAI, is made up of some of the country's biggest names in health care and technology, including Google, OpenAI, Microsoft, and Mayo Clinic. But the administration has been increasingly vocal in arguing that such industry giants will try to impede startups and competition through excessive regulatory proposals, rather than acting as responsible custodians of a technology that holds both potential and risks.

"We must not let the Coalition for Health AI (CHAI) build a regulatory cartel," health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wrote this week on X, echoing a recent editorial blasting the industry group written by two other senior health officials, deputy health secretary Jim O'Neill and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary.

And as the Trump administration attacks CHAI, there's evidence that some key companies' support for the group may be fraying.

Amazon, one of four industry founding partners of CHAI, has not renewed its membership to the group, people familiar with the decision told STAT. Another founding partner, Microsoft, told STAT that it is conducting an annual assessment of its membership to the group and that the company's Chief Scientific Officer Eric Horvitz ended his term on the organization's board in May. A spokesperson emphasized that Horvitz served "in a personal capacity rather than as a representative of Microsoft."

Neither the spokesperson nor the people familiar with Amazon's decision indicated that there was any connection between these decisions and the Trump administration's actions. (Amazon did not respond to a request for comment.)

Reached for comment, CHAI representatives shared a letter its CEO had sent members following the publication of the editorial by Makary and O'Neill. "We are eager to learn more about the concerns from HHS and how CHAI can better represent our membership and their priorities to this group of stakeholders," it said.

Overall, CHAI says it has 3,000 members ranging from universities, hospitals, and digital health startups to health plans. On Thursday, the group said it had partnered with the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, a coalition of more than 50 specialty societies.

CHAI's goal has been to set standards and frameworks for the use of a fast-growing technology that is already having an impact on how health care is delivered to patients. But in doing so it has faced resistance from various quarters.

Republican lawmakers and venture capitalists early on bristled at CHAI's big tech leadership and the perception that powerful corporations were working to bend regulation to suit their interests. As a result of the pushback, two officials from the Biden administration, which had initially worked with the group, resigned their board positions with CHAI: Micky Tripathi, the health department's former top IT regulator, and Troy Tazbaz, who formerly led the FDA's Digital Health Center of Excellence.

In their editorial, O'Neill and Makary claimed the Biden administration had given CHAI and its "Big Tech backers" the "power to regulate and stifle health tech startups."

In fact, the Biden administration had made little progress on health AI regulation, and it was clear from the outset that the Trump administration would oppose additional guardrails.

the presidential election, CHAI CEO Brian Anderson said the coalition's "bottom-up self regulatory approach" was based on building consensus guidelines, and that the work would proceed regardless of who was in office.

The attack on CHAI by Trump administration officials comes as the group has downplayed its controversial plan to develop independent "assurance labs" to validate health AI products. But CHAI's effort to influence the direction of AI standards continues in collaborations with multiple other groups, including The Joint Commission, which accredits health care organizations.

The letter Anderson sent CHAI members emphasized his interest in trying to stay out of politics.

"We remain a nonpartisan space," he wrote, "where policy leaders and regulators can easily engage with private sector clinicians and technologists."

Brittany Trang and Casey Ross contributed reporting.