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Office of the Principal Chief

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**Executive Order on Data Sovereignty and Self-Governance,
Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, Development and Use of Artificial
Intelligence and Establishing a Task Force**

2024-07-CTH

1. **AUTHORITY:** The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation.
2. **PURPOSE AND POLICY:** The Cherokee Nation understands that in embracing the promise of a great Cherokee century through our enduring commitment to self-determination and our inherent sovereignty; We must look towards the future to anticipate emerging technologies, provide safeguards and protection towards citizens' sensitive personal data and define Cherokee Nation Data Sovereignty. This endeavor includes a coordinated effort of the executive branch to take a department-wide approach to meet the interests and expectations of Cherokee Nation citizens. Therefore, this Order establishes the Task Force on Data Sovereignty and Governance.
3. **OBJECTIVES:**
 - i) Review emerging technologies, such as generative AI.
 - ii) Standardization process for introducing new technologies to Cherokee Nation citizens, implementation in the workforce and education efforts of such.
 - iii) Undertake an examination of Cherokee Nation departments that routinely administer programs and services that intake personal data from citizens.
 - iv) Make recommendations for strategies to improve gathering of personal data.
 - v) Analyze disproportional data patterns or characteristics for citizens who do not routinely participate in programs and services.

- vi) Standardization process for achieving a data sharing agreement across Cherokee Nation executive branch departments.
- vii) Implementation of data governance and establishment of a Cherokee Nation unified data model.
- viii) Recommend an institutionalized strategy to define Cherokee Data Sovereignty.
- ix) Make recommendations for general guidelines for the evaluation, procurement, and uses for generative AI and other emerging technologies.
- x) Make recommendations for educational outreach focused on emerging technologies and cybersecurity for citizens and students across the Cherokee Nation reservation.

4. **ESTABLISHING THE DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE:**

a.) **Composition:**

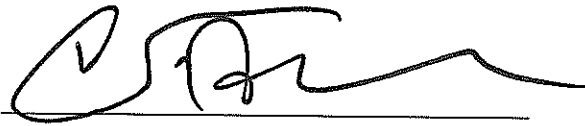
- i **Chair:** Paula Starr, Chief Information Officer
- ii **Co-Chair:** Corey Bunch, Chief of Staff
- iii **Member:** Shella Bowlin, Secretary of State
- iv **Member:** Chad Harsha, Attorney General (or his designee)
- v **Member:** Todd Gourd, Health Chief Information Officer
- vi **Member:** Ben Phillips, I.T. Director of Enterprise
- vii **Member:** Jon B. James, I.T. Director of Information Security
- viii **Member:** Tricia Moreland, I.T. Director of Infrastructure and Operations

5. **RE-COMMITMENT TO CYBERSECURITY:** Cybersecurity is essential to the security, prosperity and public safety of the Cherokee Nation as critical infrastructure is increasingly reliant on information technology and systems. Workforce and citizens should take appropriate actions to protect themselves from phishing, ransomware and other types of malware. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility and together, we can make the Nation a safer place for everyone online.

6. **REPORT:** The Task Force shall issue a report outlining any recommendations no later than **April 30, 2025**, delivered to the Principal Chief. The Task Force may provide such interim reports or request of the Principal Chief such extensions of time for the Final Report as the Chair deems necessary.

7. **TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE:** Although the Task Force is not a public body within the meaning of Cherokee Nation law and its meeting are not conducted under the Freedom of Information Act. However, in the interest of transparency, any final, interim or supplemental report shall be made publicly accessible. This task force is an internal executive branch work group designed primarily to inform the Principal Chief and Council on relevant subject matter.

8. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Order is effective today, October 9, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHOSKIN', written over a horizontal line.

Date: October 9, 2024

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Cherokee Nation, Principal Chief