Subcommittee Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

The Quantum, AI, and Cloud Landscape: Examining Opportunities, Vulnerabilities, and the Future of Cybersecurity

December 17, 2025

With cybersecurity threats constantly evolving, it is essential that we assess how to stay ahead of our adversaries by both defending against new technological threats and by developing and deploying the best tools to defend our networks.

Anthropic's recent report on the use of AI by Chinese state-sponsored actors demonstrates just how rapidly changes in technology can impact cybersecurity. Since ChatGPT's launch just three years ago, we have already seen large language models significantly change how hackers carry out cyber campaigns.

Today's hearing will give the subcommittee an opportunity to hear from the private sector on how a range of technological innovations are impacting cybersecurity today and how the Federal government can better prepare for tomorrow's threats. While I appreciate the strong bipartisan interest in this topic, I worry that many of the Trump Administration's actions are moving us in the wrong direction by hamstringing both the public and private sector security efforts. CISA has lost hundreds of employees this year, and during the shutdown, the Administration attempted to illegally fire CISA's stakeholder engagement staff¬¬—the very staff who carry out the public-private collaboration we all agree is necessary in cybersecurity.

Across the Federal Government, the Administration's war against Federal employees has reduced technological expertise and done long-term damage to the Federal government's ability to recruit and retain technology experts. I cannot imagine the Chinese government would try to force out their AI or quantum experts, yet that is exactly what we have seen the Trump Administration do here. Such actions make us less safe and put us at a competitive disadvantage.

At the same time, the Trump Administration has implemented anti-immigrant policies that have made it harder for high-skilled immigrants to move the U.S., while harassing and profiling immigrants already living here. The United States will never be able to compete with China on the size of our overall workforce.

But, our ability to attract the best and the brightest from around the world has always given us an advantage, as we have seen from the many immigrants who have founded and led cutting-edge technology companies. If we close the door to immigrants, our national security will suffer. As we in Congress assess how to strengthen our cybersecurity, we must increase our oversight over CISA and other Federal agencies to better understand how they are combatting new threats with their current staffing and resources and how recent policy decisions have impacted our security posture. I hope that we will have CISA officials before the committee soon we can ask them these important questions.

Additionally, we must fulfill our obligations to maintain and grow our nation's cybersecurity capacities by passing a long-term reauthorization of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, while adequately funding research and development in novel technologies and security. As we consider oversight and legislative activities next year, I am confident the witnesses' testimony today will help inform our efforts.

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