



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

***Innovation Nation: Leveraging Technology to Secure Cyberspace and Streamline Compliance***

**May 28, 2025**

I appreciate the opportunity to travel to Ranking Member Swalwell's neck of the woods to learn about the exciting innovation taking place in and around Silicon Valley. The universities, major tech companies, and startups in this area will play a central role in driving the advances necessary for the United States to grow and maintain its global dominance in technology.

But we cannot expect innovators to innovate without support for the Federal government – none of our global competitors do. To drive innovation, the government must put in place policies that advance basic research and development, support colleges and universities, and draw the world's best talent to the United States. To be clear, policies without funding won't accomplish much. We have to put our money where our mouth is.

Toward that end, I am concerned that the current Administration's policies may stunt innovation and ultimately undermine security. The President has eliminated DHS Centers of Excellence, urged cyber and tech talent across the government to quit their jobs, proposed drastically reducing funding for the National Science Foundation, and disrupted funding for the work of our National Labs.

And that is to say nothing of the funding for colleges and universities the President has threatened to cut for political reasons. Slashing government support for research and development and academic institutions at such a critical moment in our strategic competition with China is reckless and irresponsible. Additionally, new White House policies attacking international students will frustrate the ability of colleges, universities, and ultimately American businesses to attract top talent.

Historically, the United States has benefited from its ability to attract the best minds from around the world to learn and work here. The United States – and notably the business community - have benefited from the smarts, ideas, and grit of international students for decades, but recent actions and messaging from the White House threaten that. Committee Democrats are committed to making sure that the international talent pipeline continues to lead people to the United States.

Having said all that, I am looking forward to the conversation we will have today about how government can better support innovation, leverage the capabilities of the tech sector, and cultivate new businesses and talent. I am also interested in learning how innovative tools can help make the technologies we use every day more secure and reduce risk to the broader ecosystem.

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