COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

The AI Security Landscape: How Frontier Models, Agentic AI, and AI Coding Tools Are Reshaping Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Resilience

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Recent announcements from Anthropic and OpenAI about the ability of their latest models to find and exploit cybersecurity vulnerabilities have highlighted how frontier AI models create new risks and opportunities for cyber defenders. To address these challenges and keep cyber defenders ahead of our adversaries, we will need extensive public-private collaboration that prioritizes the safety, security, and privacy of the American people.

Unfortunately, under the Trump administration, I worry that we lack the clear leadership that is needed at this time of rapid technological change. Earlier this week, President Trump signed an executive order that seeks to establish processes for addressing these new risks. While I appreciate some direction from the White House on this important issue, the new executive order emerged after a chaotic process that appears to have been more personality-driven than based on clear evidence about the best approach for the American people.

I am unclear as to why the Treasury Secretary is leading efforts to develop an AI cybersecurity clearinghouse to coordinate scanning, discovering, and remediating vulnerabilities when that should fall squarely under CISA's responsibilities and where the Treasury Department lacks the appropriate expertise. And I worry that the loss of technological expertise at CISA and throughout the Federal government have left us without the personnel necessary to address this significant threat. To overcome these challenges, we are going need sustained attention on the cybersecurity threats posed by frontier AI models that remains in place even as the headlines fade.

Doing so will require both Congress and the executive branch to step up to develop and fund the institutions and programs necessary to keep the U.S. at the cutting edge of AI development while mitigating the harms created by AI. I hope today's hearing will give us ideas on what more the Federal government can do to partner with the private sector to develop meaningful solutions. In particular, I believe that CISA must play a central role in coordinating the public-private partnership that is vital to addressing AI risks.

The Trump administration's attacks on CISA and the loss of over 1,000 CISA personnel since early last year have left the agency in a weakened state, but it remains the only place in the Federal government with the expertise and relationships necessary to lead this effort. It must step up to support critical infrastructure and other Federal agencies, and we must ensure it has the resources and authorities necessary to do so.

I thank the witnesses for being here today and look forward to their testimony on what the private sector and civil society is doing to address AI security risks and how the Federal government can be more helpful. That being said, I hope that we will have officials from CISA and other Federal agencies

before this subcommittee in the near future, so that we can engage in the necessary oversight of how the Federal government is working on AI security.

I appreciate our witnesses' insights and willingness to collaborate with us, but congressional oversight requires hearing directly from the executive branch officials working on this issue, and I believe it is critical have we have hearings with those officials soon.

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Media contact