



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

### ***A Security Sprint: Assessing the U.S. Homeland's Vulnerabilities to Chinese Communist Party Aggression***

**May 23, 2023**

The U.S. Government must communicate to the American people the CCP's ambitions to expand and modernize its military, develop strategic technologies and digital infrastructure globally, and to exert its influence with the aim of undermining our democratic institutions. We should not demonize the Chinese people, but make no mistake – the CCP seeks to exploit American openness in order to steal economic secrets and undermine our security.

This is a strategic competition between U.S. democratic values and Chinese authoritarianism. It is a contest between U.S. economic opportunity and the CCP's dependence on market manipulation. It is a struggle between the First Amendment right of free speech and the state-controlled Chinese media. And it is a competition between the values of inclusiveness and civil liberties in America against the state-sponsored CCP surveillance that violates the human rights of the Chinese people. Democrats have worked hard to deter the Chinese Communist Party's security and economic aggression by out-competing China, investing in innovation and resilience, and promoting democratic values.

Under the Biden Administration and Democratic leadership in Congress, the United States has made heavy investments in technology, industry, and supply chains to prevent the CCP from achieving its goal of undermining the U.S. economy and displacing America as the world's global leader.

Last year, Democrats passed—and President Biden signed into law—the *CHIPS and Science Act*, which invests \$280 billion to increase domestic semiconductor production, strengthen U.S. industry, create jobs here at home, reduce inflation, and ensure the United States remains competitive vis-à-vis China on all fronts. Due to the seriousness of the CCP threat, this effort should have been bipartisan, but nearly 90% of House Republicans voted against the bill and therefore against standing up to China.

However, given today's hearing I am hopeful that we can work together to bridge the partisan gap and build on the *CHIPS Act* investments. We must unite against the CCP as it pursues its goal of global dominance. Together, Democrats and Republicans must invest in American competitiveness to counter expansive Chinese military ambitions, persistent cyber-attacks, and threats to our global supply chain. I am certain we can come together on this issue, as just last week this Committee united to pass bipartisan legislation to address cyber intelligence vulnerabilities hidden within Chinese drone technology. Today, we hope to continue to show bipartisan support for enhanced cyber security, economic stability, and counterintelligence efforts.

As I have stated before, as we deliberate on how best to strengthen the homeland against the Chinese Communist Party's actions, we must reject anti-Asian rhetoric and condemn violence against Chinese Americans. It is essential that we celebrate and support our Nation's diversity and not fall into any CCP-polarization traps as it advances China's economic and national security agendas. I thank today's witnesses for lending their expertise.

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