FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Field Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Eric Swalwell (D-CA)

Innovation Nation: Leveraging Technology to Secure Cyberspace and Streamline Compliance
May 28, 2025

I want to thank Chairman Green, Ranking Member Thompson, and Chairman Garbarino for coming to the Bay Area for this field hearing. I also want to thank our panel of witnesses for joining us today.

Their collective public and private sector experience will help us better understand the cyber threats facing our country and how we can best leverage innovation to improve our security. There is no better place than here in Silicon Valley to have this conversation about the innovative technologies that will shape our cybersecurity future.

I have benefitted tremendously during my time in Congress from the expertise of technology leaders here in the Bay Area, and I am glad to see a recognition that the Homeland Security Committee more broadly can gain valuable insights from the Silicon Valley tech community. I hope that today's hearing will help further build the connections to facilitate conversations between Silicon Valley and Congress going forward.

As we have seen, technological progress offers tremendous opportunities but also creates new security risks. Recent advances in AI technology have enabled more sophisticated phishing attacks, and deepfake technologies have helped North Korean hackers gain access to computer networks by pretending to be remote job applicants. As our adversaries seek to utilize these new technologies, they continue to invest in advanced technologies like quantum computing that will render current encryption standards ineffective.

In order to compete, we must continue to invest in innovation and move quickly to integrate the best technologies available into our cyber defenses. I hope to learn more today from our witnesses on how technology is shaping the current threat landscape and how threats are likely to evolve in the coming years so that we can ensure the Federal government is staying ahead of our adversaries.

I also look forward to hearing more about how we can better leverage new technologies for our own cybersecurity and how we can better support the cybersecurity technology ecosystem. Having today's hearing at Stanford University is the perfect venue to highlight the importance of sustained public-private partnerships in technological innovation. The emergence of Silicon Valley as the leading technology center in the world was no accident.

It was the presence of one of the world's leading research universities that helped bring together global experts in one place for research and for training new innovators, spurring private sector growth throughout the region. It was also a diverse immigrant community with some of the leading technology and business minds from around that world that found a welcoming place to start and develop new technology companies.

And it was vital Federal investments in research and development that helped spur the creation of the Internet and many of the innovations that have transformed our world. Without that symbiotic relationship between government, academia, and the private sector, many of the leading technology companies would not be headquartered here in Silicon Valley or even in the United States.

I worry that the current Administration's efforts to cut funding for universities and for research and development and to cut immigration and student visas will undermine our nation's ability to innovate going forward. As China continues to ramp up its research and development, we cannot afford to pull back our public investment in technological development and universities. Doing so would harm our economic competitiveness and our national security.

Today's hearing will help the Committee learn about how that public-private collaboration has fueled innovation and how we must build on that collaboration going forward. We also must ensure that both the public and private sectors are well-positioned to implement new technologies rapidly.

CISA plays an incredibly important role in facilitating public-private collaboration, including through the JCDC, and supporting the development to cybersecurity best practices, like Secure-by-Design, that can help lift the cybersecurity baseline across the technology ecosystem. Continued support for CISA's efforts will be necessary to support the utilization of innovative technologies going forward, and I hope our witnesses will help us understand how CISA can best fulfill its role in supporting innovation.

# # #

Media contact