



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Hearing Statement of Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee Rep. James Walkinshaw (D-VA)

### ***DeepSeek and Unitree Robotics: Examining the National Security Risks of PRC Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Autonomous Technologies and Building a Secure U.S. Technology Base***

March 17, 2026

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the national security risks posed by technological advances in the People's Republic of China.

We are living through a period of rapid technological transformation. Artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and digital technologies are reshaping our economy and our national security landscape. The implications are profound, and the United States must be prepared. Maintaining leadership in technological innovation is not simply an economic priority, it is a national security imperative.

To succeed, we must pursue policies that both drive innovation at home and mitigate the risks posed by adversaries. That requires a clear-eyed understanding of the PRC's strategy. We have known for many years that the PRC views its industrial policy as a critical tool to reshape the world order and emerge as an economic leader and global superpower. With extensive state investment in technology companies and laws that enlist private companies to serve the interest of the government, the PRC's military-civil fusion is a serious threat to our own national security.

Historically, Congress has recognized this threat. There has been bipartisan consensus around reducing supply chain vulnerabilities, restricting the use of certain PRC technologies, limiting exports of sensitive U.S. technologies, and strengthening secure supply chains with trusted partners. Unfortunately, the policies of the Trump Administration have undermined that progress.

Upon taking office, President Trump took his DOGE chainsaw to the federal workforce, weakening agencies essential to our national security and scientific leadership. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—CISA—has lost nearly a third of its workforce because the Trump Administration fired people, reassigned people, or bullied people into quitting. At the very moment our adversaries are expanding their cyber arsenals, the Trump Administration is cutting our own defenses.

From the PRC to Russia to Iran, our adversaries leverage cyberspace and related technologies to fight international conflicts on our homeland. We've seen Iran do this already. Just last week, a pro-Iran hacker caused global disruptions at a major medical device manufacturer – Stryker –in response to the President's war with Iran. The PRC is a far more capable cyber actor, and the potential consequences of a future cyber conflict with the PRC are far more severe.

Yet instead of strengthening our technological and cybersecurity defenses, the Administration has weakened the agencies responsible for securing our networks and advancing our scientific leadership. Key institutions like the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and

Technology have also seen major workforce cuts. At a time when technological competition is intensifying, dismantling our government's technical expertise is incomprehensible.

The Trump Administration has also launched a chaotic trade war that fails to distinguish between allies and adversaries. Rather than building trusted supply chains with our partners, these erratic tariff policies alienate allies and inject uncertainty into the global economy. Even more troubling, in the fall, the Trump Administration announced that it would allow for the export of advanced semiconductors – NVIDIA H200 Chips – to the PRC.

With access to more advanced chips, the risk of more rapid frontier AI development in China only increases. Imagine you were in a race and only you had access to high octane fuel that let you drive 10mph faster than your opponent. Would you give that high octane fuel to your opponent? Your opponent who is determined to leave you in the dust and then crush you? That's what Trump did. It was weak.

Finally, we should recognize a fundamental truth about American innovation. The United States leads the world in technology because we attract the best talent from around the globe. Immigrants have played an outsized role in building our technology sector. Policies that target immigrants do not strengthen America—they weaken our ability to compete with our adversaries.

We could spend all day naming the immigrants who have played a critical role in developing technologies that advance American economic and national security. I'll name just a few. Sal Khan, the son of a Bengali-Muslim immigrant, created Khan Academy and in 2023 launched Khanmigo, an AI-powered personal tutor and teaching assistant now offered free to every teacher in the United States. Rana el Kaliouby, an Egyptian-American who founded Affectiva, which built AI that understands human emotions and cognitive states by analyzing facial and voice expressions. She co-hosts a PBS NOVA series on AI. And Dina Katabi, an immigrant from Syria, who is one of MIT's most decorated scientists, winner of every science award there is to win, who developed an AI powered device that can detect Parkinson's based on how a patient breathes at night.

Mr. Chairman, these are the people you recently said don't belong in America. Sal Khan's father came to this country from Bangladesh, Rana el Kaliouby came from Egypt. Dina Katabi came from Syria. All happen to be Muslim. And together, along with many, many others, they are helping America win the AI race, win the robotics race, win the technology race.

Our adversaries – China, Russia, Iran – would love nothing more than for us to drive out the scientists, engineers, innovators, and entrepreneurs who make this country the most advanced – and, yes, the greatest – nation on Earth. I beg you...stop doing their work for them.

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