

AICOA:

PUTTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AT RISK

It's **no secret** that the U.S. and China are locked in a fierce competition for tech supremacy.

With the future of global tech leadership on the line, Americans should ask themselves: **why are members of Congress focused on kneecapping leading American tech companies, instead of trying to win the race for technological leadership?**

The American Innovation And Choice Online Act (AICOA; S. 2992), recently introduced in the Senate, specifically targets some of America's most innovative companies, effectively tripping up our tech leaders in their race against Chinese competitors:

- AICOA would require America's leading tech companies to share data with foreign competitors, provide access to U.S. infrastructure, and force U.S. digital services to share sensitive or protected user data with foreign competitors.
- AICOA targets American companies but leaves Chinese competitors such as Baidu, Alibaba, and Huawei unscathed, allowing them to continue growing without competition from American firms, and granting them increased market share and access to sensitive U.S. data.
- AICOA would require U.S tech leaders to provide their foreign competitors with access to U.S. infrastructure, and force U.S. companies to share sensitive or protected user data with foreign competitors.

Twelve former national security officials, including former directors of the CIA and a former Director of National Intelligence, recently **sounded the alarm** around the national security implications of these Congressional proposals:

"Recent congressional antitrust proposals that target specific American technology firms would degrade critical R&D priorities, allow foreign competitors to displace leaders in the U.S. tech sector both at home and abroad, and potentially put sensitive U.S. data and IP in the hands of Beijing."

Members of Congress from across the political spectrum are also voicing their concern that AICOA could put American national security at risk:

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas)

"I have concerns with provisions in the bill that would require data sharing between American companies and bad actors under the control of the Chinese Communist Party."

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas)

"China, as we know, wants access to American consumer and business information. They are a vacuum cleaner when it comes to hoovering up data. Chinese companies, under this bill, would likely have the right to interoperate with the American platforms and have access to the features and the business data that are proprietary for these businesses."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California)

"We're requiring companies to take down protections that are in place today and instead allow hackers and those looking to steal personal data to access the devices. I'm told that Federal agencies have concerns about these provisions, but this committee has not had the benefit of their input. For these reasons, I will oppose this bill today."

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont)

"I have other issues I would like to work on with cosponsors of the bill, such as unintended economic consequences for small businesses who rely greatly on online platforms — there are many small businesses in Vermont. I also want to make sure that we are not inadvertently harming our national security."

China plans to surpass the West in technological innovation by 2025 through heavy subsidization and protection of its technology industry. With leadership in areas such as quantum computing and artificial intelligence on the line, we can't afford to hamstring our leading innovators.

Tell Congress: Don't put our national security at risk. Don't break our tech.

Learn More:

- **New Report From CICA On The National Security Risks Posed By House Antitrust Bills**
- **12 Former Top U.S. National Security Officials Say Congress Needs To Build On American Tech—Not Regulate It Out Of Existence**
- **Former Senator And DNI Director Dan Coats Explains That Radical Antitrust Bills Could Help China Surpass The U.S. In Technology Leadership**