

Democracy Technology Partnership Act

Section by Section

Technological leadership in emerging and critical technologies will determine the political, economic and military strength of countries in the 21st century. These technologies offer opportunities for the empowerment of citizens and the flourishing of democratic practices, but can also be used by authoritarian governments for surveillance, repression and control.

The People's Republic of China is pursuing a set of policies to achieve dominance in key technologies including 5G, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, hypersonics, biotechnology, space capabilities and autonomous vehicles.

The United States cannot counter these practices or compete with the PRC and other authoritarian governments on its own. The world's major liberal-democratic nations must work together in a Technology Partnership to ensure that these technologies advance democratic institutions, norms, and values, contributing to global peace and prosperity.

Section 1: Short Title: The Act can be referred to as the Democracy Technology Partnership Act.

Section 2: Findings: It lists numerous Congressional findings, summarized below:

- The 21st century will be defined by economic competition rooted in technological advances;
- Technologies offer opportunities for the empowerment of citizens, as well as challenges to democratic norms and human rights by authoritarian regimes;
- Technological leadership by the world's democratic nations is important to safeguarding democratic institutions, values and norms, and democracies must lead in setting standards and shaping the responsible use of technologies;
- The PRC seeks technological superiority and is increasing its influence in AI, 5G and a wide range of science and technology disciplines;
- The PRC uses technologies such as AI, facial recognition and biometrics to increase control over its population, including against ethnic and religious minorities;
- The PRC uses its economic power to coerce and censor companies, individuals and countries;
- After decades of being the world leader in key technologies, the United States is at risk of falling behind the PRC in key technologies of the future; and
- Other countries have unique knowledge, expertise, and capabilities in numerous cutting-edge technologies. In order to successfully compete against the PRC, the United States must partner with such countries.

Section 3: Sense of Congress:

1. Emerging technology governance regimes driven by undemocratic governments are gaining traction internationally;
2. The United States is ceding leadership to authoritarian regimes and risking the growth of anti-democratic norms and standards around technologies; and

3. Promoting greater coordination among democratic nations is essential to create an international technology governance architecture that benefits all nations and effectively counters and contains nondemocratic governance regimes.

Section 4: Statement of Policy: The United States will lead in the creation of a new multilateral diplomatic architecture for technology policy composed of the world's tech-leading democracies.

Section 5: International Technology Partnership Office: The Act requires that the Secretary of State establish an interagency-staffed Technology Partnership Office, housed in the Department of State.

The Office will be headed by the Special Ambassador for Technology, who will be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of Senate, at the rank of ambassador. The Secretaries of Commerce and Treasury will appoint directors for the Technology Partnership. The office will also include a representative and/or detailee from key Federal Agencies, as determined by the Special Ambassador.

The purpose of the Office will be to:

1. create a technology-based partnership of democratic countries to develop harmonized technology governance regimes and to fill gaps on specific technologies such as AI, 5G, semiconductor chips and more;
2. identify multilateral mechanisms to advance the objectives of the Technology Partnership around technology governance that promote democratic values;
3. coordinate with such countries regarding shared technology strategies; and
4. develop strategies to provide alternatives to countries who are at risk of acquiring technologies from authoritarian regimes.

It also provides the Office with special authorities to give the Office greater flexibility in hiring.

Section 6: International Technology Partnership: The bill requires the Special Ambassador to establish an International Technology Partnership with countries and relevant political and economic unions, which meet specific criteria.

- a) Partnership criteria: These countries must have a democratic national government and a strong commitment to democratic values; an economy with advanced technology sectors; and a demonstrated record or expressed interest in international cooperation and coordination with the US on important defense and intelligence issues.
- b) The Partnership may include relevant political and economic unions.
- c) Objectives.—The Partnership shall pursue the following objectives, summarized below:
 - coordination of technology policies and standards through international standard bodies and with the private sector to ensure private sector led, politically neutral, standards processes;
 - adoption of shared data privacy, data sharing, and data archiving standards;
 - coordination of policies related to export controls, investment screening, and technology transfer for emerging and foundational technologies;

- coordination around the resiliency of supply chains in critical technology areas, including semiconductor fabrication;
- facilitation of partnerships and cooperation among and between research universities, start-up companies, and other businesses;
- coordination of investments and co-financing in targeted countries with the goal of promoting secure and resilient digital infrastructure and privacy-enhancing technologies that protect democratic values and create a clear contrast and alternative to the PRC; and
- information sharing among partner countries to raise awareness of how authoritarian governments work to transfer technology and use technologies to erode democracies.

The Special Ambassador may establish working groups within the International Technology Partnership, composed of representatives from partner countries to coordinate on discrete strategies and policies related to specific technologies.

Section 7: International Technology Partnership Fund: The Act establishes a \$5 billion International Technology Partnership Fund to support 1) joint research projects between government research agencies, universities, technology companies and other businesses from partner countries; and 2) technology investments in third-country markets.

It also establishes a Public-Private Board, called the International Technology Partnership Advisory Board, made up of individuals with demonstrated expertise in the fields of emerging technologies and international trade and who come from the private sector, academia, human rights organizations and technology research institutions, to provide advice and recommendations to the Technology Partnership Office on the implementation of this Act.

Section 8: State Department Reports: Requires that the Secretary of State, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, submit an unclassified report to Congress on a national strategy for technology and national security that includes the following:

- assesses the emerging and foundational technologies of the future;
- identifies the current capabilities and gaps of the United States and other countries in critical technologies and its components, including partner countries and the PRC;
- identifies governance models for these technologies being adopted by other countries and where the US should coordinate;
- identifies a preliminary set of priority technology areas for the Technology Partnership; and
- makes recommendations for enhancing US technological capabilities, how the US should collaborate with other countries; and the criteria for determining membership in the Partnership, including a strong commitment to democratic values and a history of working closely with the United States.

Requires that the Secretary of State submit a report to Congress that assesses other countries' standards and governance regimes for privacy, human rights, consumer protection, and free expression.