

Democracy Technology Partnership Act

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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. Their approach includes heavily subsidizing Chinese companies, investing heavily in research and development, incentivizing foreign countries to adopt Chinese technologies, leveraging international standard setting bodies to advance China's vision, imposing restrictions on foreign companies, and accessing technologies through illicit means.

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. The Democracy Technology Partnership Act establishes an interagency office at the U.S. Department of State to lead in the creation of a new partnership among the world's tech-leading democracies. The bill does the following:

- **Technology Partnership Office at the State Department:** Requires that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Treasury, establish an interagency office at the Department of State. It will be led by a Special Ambassador for Technology, with deputies from Commerce and Treasury, and include expert representatives from key Federal agencies. The purposes 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;
 - 2) identify existing, and when needed, new multilateral mechanisms to advance the objectives of the Technology Partnership;
 - 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.

- **International Technology Partnership:** The Act sets out criteria for membership in the Partnership and outlines its objectives, which are:
 - 1) coordinate on technology policies and standards;
 - 2) coordinate policies with the private sector to ensure private sector led, politically neutral, standards processes;
 - 3) adopt shared data privacy, data sharing, and data archiving standards;
 - 4) create shared policies around export controls, investment screening, and technology transfer;
 - 5) coordinate on ensuring the resiliency of supply chains in critical technology areas;
 - 6) coordinate on supply chains as relates to semiconductor fabrication;
 - 7) facilitate partnerships and cooperation between universities and the private sectors;

- 8) coordinate investments and co-financing in targeted countries with the goal of promoting secure and resilient digital infrastructure and privacy-enhancing technologies; and
 - 9) facilitate information sharing among partner countries around technology transfer and the use of technologies by authoritarian governments to erode democracies.
- **International Technology Partnership Fund:** Establishes a \$5 billion Technology Partnership Fund to support joint research projects between government research agencies, universities, technology companies and other businesses from partner countries; and technology investments in third-country markets.
 - **Public-Private Board:** Establishes the 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.
 - **Technology Strategy Reports:** Requires that the Department of State, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, submit a report to Congress that identifies areas of focus for the Technology Partnership (including gaps in capabilities, priority technology areas, criteria for determining which countries should be included, and potential areas of convergence for partnership). It also requires the State Department to submit a supplemental report that assesses other countries' standards and governance regimes for privacy, human rights, consumer protection, and free expression.