

U.S. Rep. Gallagher: Introduces legislation to protect American research and IP from adversaries

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Gallagher, Wild, King, Lankford Introduce Legislation to Protect American Research and IP from Adversaries

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Contact: [Jordan Dunn](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Reps. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and Susan Wild (D-PA), alongside Sens. Angus King (I-ME) and James Lankford (R-OK), introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation aimed at protecting sensitive U.S. research from foreign adversaries, while also securing America’s valuable international partnerships that spur technological innovation. The legislation will advance key technology research in areas such as artificial intelligence and quantum science with trustworthy international partners while simultaneously securing these advancements from rival nations who seek to steal American technological breakthroughs. “In order to ensure the Free World, and not the Chinese Communist Party, leads the way in developing the new technologies of the future, we need to pool our resources and build collective resilience across our societies,” said Rep. Gallagher. “This starts with common-sense security standards to ensure that our adversaries are not benefiting from sensitive research.”

“American researchers are responsible for some of the world’s most cutting-edge research in key technological fields, and it is critical that we protect our breakthroughs from rival nations who would seek to steal our advances and turn them against us,” said Senator King. “At the same time, it is clear that American scientists benefit greatly from working relationships with international colleagues. Our bipartisan, bicameral bill will promote the best parts of these collaborations in secure channels, boosting key research while also protecting our breakthrough findings from rivals who seek to profit off of the United States’s hard work.”

“Bad actors like China, Russia, Iran, and others may try to intimidate and isolate us and our allies through hacking, intellectual property theft, and other threats to our national security and information security, but we won’t be bullied out of international innovation opportunities,” said Sen. Lankford. “We should grow our relationships with trustworthy allies to collaborate and advance US interests in international research and development by using consistent security protocols, not avoiding engagement.”

“As Congress focuses on boosting U.S. advanced industrial competitiveness to meet the China challenge, it is critical to not only expand support for R&D and other related policies but to ensure the U.S. government works more closely with our allies to collaborate on advanced technology programs and policies,” said Dr. Robert Atkinson, President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF). “Given the complexity of technology and the scale of the China challenge, the United States cannot afford to go it alone. That is why this bicameral, bipartisan bill to enable and direct more international technology cooperation with our key allies is so important and why ITIF fully supports this legislation.

Specifically, the legislation would require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Security Council, the Secretary of Energy, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the heads of other relevant agencies, to create a list of allied countries with which joint international research and cooperation would advance United States national interests and advance scientific knowledge in the key technology focus areas, as identified in the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. Agencies would then be required to work with listed allies to develop general security policies and procedures in line with USICA requirements to prevent sensitive governmental, academic, and private sector research from being disclosed to adversaries. The Department of State will then be required to provide a report to Congress within a year identifying the most promising international research ventures leveraging resources and advancing research in key technology focus areas.