



March 6, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support for the No DeepSeek on Government Devices Act**

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned attorneys general of 21 states, urge Congress to pass the “No DeepSeek on Government Devices Act.” This bill would prohibit government devices from downloading and using the Chinese Communist Party’s DeepSeek AI Software (“DeepSeek”). Congress needs to pass this bipartisan bill to protect our nation’s secrets from Chinese espionage.

China is a clear and present danger to the United States. As Secretary of State Marco Rubio testified during his confirmation hearing, “The Communist Party of China is the most potent and dangerous near-peer adversary this country has ever confronted.” Timothy Nerozzi, *Rubio warns China is ‘most potent and dangerous’ adversary for US*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER (Jan. 15, 2025).<sup>1</sup> Indeed, China “is an existential threat to the United States,” warned President Trump’s former trade

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/courage-strength-optimism/3287617/rubio-warns-china-most-potent-dangerous-adversary/>.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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representative, Robert Lighthizer. Scott Pelley, *Trump's former trade chief says China is a threat, tariffs are necessary*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 2, 2025).<sup>2</sup>

Despite the national security threat that China poses to our country, Chinese hackers were allowed to “run wild during the Biden administration,” including operations against our government. Kevin Collier, *China's hackers have run wild during the Biden administration. Can Trump rein them in?*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 18, 2025).<sup>3</sup> In a “major cybersecurity incident,” China recently hacked the U.S. Treasury Department, “gaining access to the workstations of government employees.” Ana Swanson and David E. Sanger, *China Hacked Treasury Dept. in ‘Major’ Breach, U.S. Says*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Dec. 30, 2024).<sup>4</sup> Once inside the Treasury Department’s systems, China stole information from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US—which “reviews foreign investments for national security risks,” including real estate purchases near American military bases—and the sanctions office. Sean Lyngaas, *Chinese hackers breached US government office that assesses foreign investments for national security risks*, CNN (Jan. 10, 2025).<sup>5</sup> A federal investigation announced one week after the 2024 election found that China was conducting a “broad and significant” cyberespionage campaign aimed at stealing information from Americans who work in government and politics.” David Klepper, *Investigation into Chinese hacking reveals ‘broad and significant’ spying effort, FBI says*, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Nov. 13, 2024).<sup>6</sup> And we all remember the Chinese spy balloon that collected information from some of America’s most secret and important military sites while it floated across the country. Courtney Kube and Carol E. Lee, *Chinese spy balloon gathered intelligence from sensitive U.S. military sites, despite U.S. efforts to block it*, NBC NEWS (Apr. 3, 2023).<sup>7</sup>

DeepSeek appears to be another tool for Chinese spies to attack America’s national security. DeepSeek collects a wide range of data, “including chat and search query history, keystroke patterns, IP addresses, and activity from other apps.” Aaron Katersky *et al.*, *DeepSeek coding has the capability to transfer users’ data directly to the Chinese government*, ABC NEWS (Feb. 5, 2025).<sup>8</sup> According to cybersecurity experts, DeepSeek “has code hidden in its programming which has the built-in capability to send user data directly to the Chinese government.” *Id.* Thus, “[u]sers

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-former-trade-chief-robert-lighthizer-says-china-is-a-threat-tariffs-are-necessary-60-minutes-transcript/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/trump-faces-unprecedented-cyber-challenges-chinese-hackers-rcna186423>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/30/us/politics/china-hack-treasury.html>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/10/politics/chinese-hackers-breach-committee-on-foreign-investment-in-the-us/index.html>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/china-fbi-hacking-flax-typhoon-trump-ed1c4c2cf6fc3b07834c799add215f44>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/china-spy-balloon-collected-intelligence-us-military-bases-rcna77155>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/US/deepseek-coding-capability-transfer-users-data-directly-chinese/story?id=118465451>.

who register or log in to DeepSeek may unknowingly be creating accounts in China, making their identities, search queries, and online behavior visible to Chinese state systems.” *Id.*

The Canadian,<sup>9</sup> Australian,<sup>10</sup> South Korean,<sup>11</sup> and Taiwanese<sup>12</sup> governments have already blocked access to DeepSeek on government devices due to these security concerns. Italian authorities have blocked DeepSeek across the country.<sup>13</sup> The private sector has also recognized the threat of DeepSeek.<sup>14</sup>

Given the Chinese desire to steal America’s secrets and the ability of DeepSeek to carry out this theft, Congress should quickly pass legislation to ban DeepSeek on government devices. Congress passed similar legislation two years ago to prevent TikTok from stealing information from our government. Lauren Feiner, *TikTok banned on government devices under spending bill passed by Congress*, CNBC (Dec. 23, 2022).<sup>15</sup> A Republican and a Democrat in the House have joined together to propose the No DeepSeek on Government Devices Act ( H.R. 1121). Like it did with TikTok, Congress should protect America’s national security by banning DeepSeek on government devices. If it has not already taken action to administratively ban DeepSeek, we trust that the Trump Administration would swiftly implement this ban to protect our national security from America’s “potent and dangerous” adversary.

China is trying to steal America’s secrets. America must fight back. Congress should shut down China’s latest Trojan horse by passing the No DeepSeek on Government Devices Act.

Sincerely,



Austin Knudsen  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MONTANA

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/politics/chinese-firm-deepseeks-ai-chatbot-restricted-from-some-government-phones/article\\_50548dba-d1ad-58c0-a637-344afdd7943f.html](https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/politics/chinese-firm-deepseeks-ai-chatbot-restricted-from-some-government-phones/article_50548dba-d1ad-58c0-a637-344afdd7943f.html)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/tech/australia-bans-deepseek-from-government-devices-5c1534d0>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-06/south-korea-blocks-access-to-deepseek-from-government-devices>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/technology/taiwan-bans-government-departments-using-deepseek-ai-2025-02-03/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.euronews.com/next/2025/01/31/deepseek-ai-blocked-by-italian-authorities-as-others-member-states-open-probes>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-01-30/deepseek-s-ai-restricted-by-hundreds-of-companies-within-days?embedded-checkout=true>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/12/23/congress-passes-spending-bill-with-tiktok-ban-on-government-devices.html>



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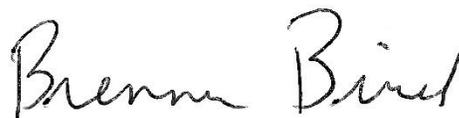
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