

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretaries Rubio and Bessent,

We write to urge you to ensure that upcoming U.S. bilateral discussions with China, including a dialogue on AI scheduled for later this month, squarely address the most important issues related to AI safety and risk. We believe these challenges require a sustained and enduring diplomatic dialogue that goes beyond a single meeting.

Advancements in artificial intelligence have the potential to dramatically improve and transform our way of life. They also present a broad spectrum of national security risks that could be harmful to the American public and our national interests. AI models could be used to create a deadly pathogen, carry out a cyberattack on critical infrastructure, or destabilize societies in other ways. Models trained in one part of the world can be misused in another, with the consequences spilling far beyond a nation's borders. Last week, researchers from Anthropic and Open AI — America's top two AI labs — warned the world that the technology is hurtling toward a future that, minus guardrails, could endanger humanity.

To mitigate the risks of AI at home, we must also address the risks internationally, especially with China given its capacity to develop advanced AI models of its own. Though there is much we disagree on, our nations are also vulnerable to the same AI risks. Yet, right now, the two countries developing the most capable AI systems in the world have no reliable means to inform one another of or jointly address risks. The purpose of a U.S.-China dialogue on AI should be

focused and practical: reduce risks of miscalculation and address the dangers that neither country can manage alone.

In addressing AI risks in the long term, we believe the Administration should craft an ongoing dialogue with the following broad objectives:

First, it is important that the United States and PRC work toward establishing shared standards and red lines. Ultimately, it is important to facilitate discussions between the two governments, and with AI labs and evaluators in both countries, on testing and evaluation standards for reliability, robustness, and adversarial behavior, and work toward agreement on harmful uses of AI that both sides agree to not pursue.

Second, a standing crisis communication channel should be created to facilitate coordination in the event of an AI-related emergency. Building on basic incident reporting, the Administration should develop a channel that both sides use routinely to report anomalous events and prevent misunderstandings.

Third, it is important to address the proliferation of advanced AI capability to third parties. Chinese AI model developers are currently pursuing a strategy to diffuse AI capabilities globally through the open release of model weights. While the PRC will be resistant to limiting such efforts at the present time, the Administration should push for a more substantive dialogue to discuss how to mitigate risks as AI pushes the frontier.

Finally, while we remain vigorous competitors with China on AI, we hope the administration will consider convening a dialogue between American and Chinese AI researchers on AI safety and risk. Doing this under formal governmental auspices can help ensure that the scope of discussions is limited strictly to AI safety and that American technology and IP are not endangered.

With these broad elements in mind, we encourage the administration to prioritize and raise the following issues at the upcoming engagement with PRC officials this month:

1. **Human control over nuclear weapons decisions.** President Xi has publicly affirmed the PRC's commitment on the need to maintain human control over the decision to use nuclear weapons. There is a need to further define what this commitment actually means and determine how it can be applied to reduce the most catastrophic of risks.
2. **Preventing misuse by non-state actors.** The United States and PRC share an interest in ensuring threat actors are not able to misuse AI for their own purposes or acquire AI systems that provide such actors with nation-state capabilities. The Administration should consult with appropriate domain experts to identify high-priority risk areas for the United

States, including gene synthesis screening, and raise such issues with the PRC as necessary.

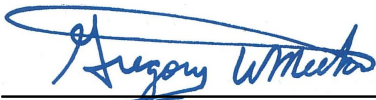
3. **Address risk from increasingly autonomous systems.** The AI labs building these systems say frontier models may increasingly be able to self-replicate and self-improve. AIs could operate autonomously in pursuit of their own goals, posing a new form of threat actor with which neither country has experience. Both countries should characterize these risks through dialogue and identify measures to address them.
4. **Share incident reporting.** Neither country knows when AI systems in the other nation fail in consequential ways. The inability to attribute an action to a person, country, or AI agent could undermine diplomatic relationships and precipitate geopolitical crises with real world consequences. In the last two months alone, three American AI labs have voluntarily disclosed incidents in which their systems operated outside controlled testing environments and accessed outside systems. We urge you to develop a basic bilateral mechanism to voluntarily exchange information on AI incidents.
5. **Support verification research.** Verification technologies and approaches are nascent for AI and must be developed if they are to assist in nonproliferation and international coordination efforts. Given the mistrust that marks the relationship, the US must have ways to verify China's claims about the AI activities they are pursuing. Both countries should support or participate in third party-led research efforts focused on developing such verification technologies.

We hope the meeting this month is the start of a regular and consistent bilateral dialogue on AI safety and risk. It is critical that relevant technical and policy experts are included from both sides to ensure substantive and productive discussions.

We hope that you will lay the groundwork for common sense coordination on these issues now, so that we can proactively address and prepare for risks to the United States. The promise and risks of AI are too great for the United States and China to not talk. We appreciate the Administration's willingness to engage Beijing on this issue and want to see this dialogue succeed. We are ready to work with you on a bipartisan basis to make this engagement substantive, concrete, and lasting.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

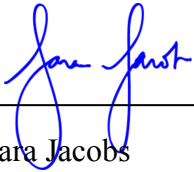
Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign
Affairs



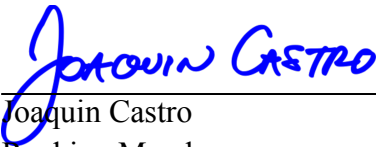
Ami Bera
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on East Asia
and the Pacific



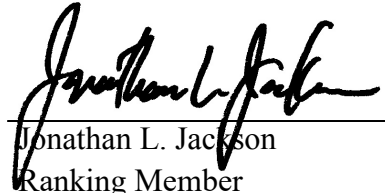
Sara Jacobs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Africa



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on South and
Central Asia



Joaquin Castro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Western Hemisphere



Jonathan L. Jackson
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Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigation



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



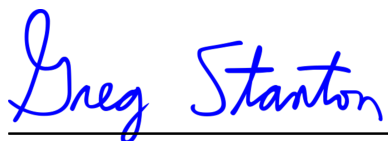
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Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
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Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
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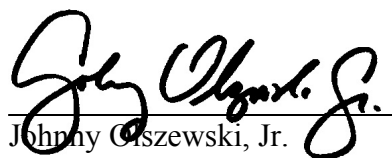
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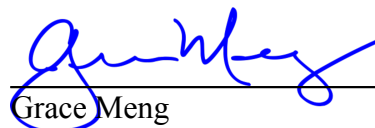
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



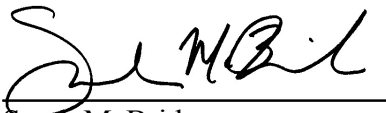
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



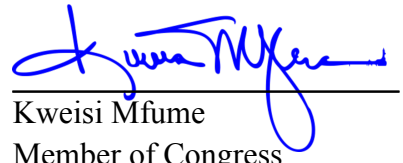
Dina Titus
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Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



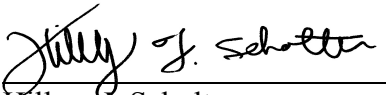
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



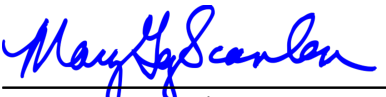
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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