Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
"Examining Biosecurity at the Intersection of AI and Biology"
December 17, 2025

Chairman Joyce, thank you for holding this hearing to examine biosecurity at the intersection of AI and biology.

I am hopeful about the potential for medical breakthroughs because of advancements in AI and biological sciences. There are incredible benefits for innovative medicines and public health preparedness on the horizon.

At the same time, scientists, AI company executives, and national security experts are expressing concerns about the increasing risks of misusing AI to develop dangerous biological weapons or novel pathogens.

The pace of advancements in AI and biotechnology in recent years is staggering. The barriers that once constrained biological weapons development are lowered with widespread accessibility to gene editing and open-source AI biological design tools.

While it is difficult to say how much time we have left to mitigate the risks of an intentional or unintentional AI-enabled biothreat, it is not too late to act. Today we will explore the opportunities, risks, and adequacy of the current safeguards.

As we have these discussions, it is important that any efforts to limit the risks of AI-enabled biotechnology do not limit American innovation in these fields.

To win the race for AI, American AI innovators must lead the way in developing cutting edge products, while taking steps to acknowledge and mitigate biosecurity risks in their products. Some are already taking such steps.

Additionally, the Trump administration has implemented important measures to prioritize AI innovation and biosecurity.

For example, the "Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research" Executive Order from last May is intended to strengthen oversight and accountability of life sciences research, while ensuring the U.S. remains a global leader in biotechnology.

In addition, the Administrations' AI Action Plan, as well as other Executive Actions, are preparing for the novel risk of AI-enabled biothreats. In particular, the recently announced Genesis Mission, aims to unleash AI and biotechnology innovation, including detecting and countering biological threats.

I look forward to discussing this emerging issue and examining ways we can continue improving America's biosecurity infrastructure to keep up with the evolving technological landscape.

I want to thank our witnesses for being here today, and I look forward to hearing your testimony.

With that, I yield back.