



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Subcommittee on Research & Technology Hearing:

DeepSeek: A Deep Dive

April 8th, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Babin. Welcome to all of the Committee Members on both sides of the aisle, and welcome to the distinguished panel of witnesses. I am looking forward to a productive conversation about our country's progress in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Last Congress, the Science Committee developed several good bipartisan bills seeking to advance our nation in AI. Even then we understood that our leadership was threatened. Today the threat is plain as day for all to see.

Two months ago, the release of "V3" and "R1" AI models by Chinese firm DeepSeek caused many Americans to awaken to the realization that we cannot take our leadership in emerging technologies for granted. Securing our research and applying targeted export controls are necessary but insufficient steps to ensuring American leadership in AI. To win the AI race, we must realize our potential by enabling and supporting scientific advancement through the infrastructure, institutions, and most importantly, people, who truly drive American innovation. Put another way, we need both a defensive strategy and an offensive strategy.

The Science Committee is responsible for supporting and overseeing non-defense Federal AI R&D. One key agency under our purview is the National Science Foundation, which focuses on advancing the fundamental science of AI. As of last year, NSF was on track to spend about \$750 million on AI related research.

To understand how this funding contributes to AI advancements, consider the funding of PhD student Andrew Barto, whose work in computational reinforcement learning laid the foundations for modern AI. Earlier this year, Dr. Barto received the prestigious Turing award for his contributions. Dr. Barto's early work was NSF funded, as has been so much of the early research enabling today's AI breakthroughs.

The NSF AI Institutes program, a \$500 million investment, connects over 500 funded and collaborative institutions across the U.S. to form the nation's largest AI research ecosystem. I'm particularly excited by the work of the AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems at UC Davis. The people, institutions, and infrastructure supported by NSF, the Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Standards of Technology, and so many more Federal science agencies form the backbone of American scientific leadership.

Unfortunately, our nation's great scientific minds are now facing an environment of uncertainty, distrust, and reduced funding. President Trump and co-President Musk with his DOGE minion are wreaking havoc on our scientific enterprise- not just endangering our ability to lead in AI and so many critical fields, but actively sabotaging our leadership.

I will name just a few of these setbacks: the Trump administration has fired thousands of government professionals in critical technology roles. These talented individuals are now being recruited by other countries, including China. They have terminated countless active research and education training grants, and we anticipate devastating cuts in the FY 2026 budget request. They have deported graduate students for exercising their 1st Amendment rights, effectively broadcasting to foreign scientists and students to stay away.

In the weeks leading up to this hearing, universities across the country have significantly reduced incoming PhD student admissions because of the funding uncertainty. Who among the aspiring students turned away might have been our next Andrew Barton? We may never know. Just two weeks ago, a scientific journal found that 75% of PhD students polled were considering leaving the United States. When asked where they'd go, one response captures the grave concern I share with you today: "Anywhere that supports science."

If we seek to be global leaders in AI, we must collectively wake up to the reality of the harm that is being done under our watch. I believe the U.S. still has time to reverse course on our worst impulses and win the AI race, and I look forward to having a discussion today about the path forward. Thank you and I yield back.