

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 5, 2025

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Director Gabbard:

We write with grave concern over the growing capabilities of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to engage in foreign malign influence (FMI) within the United States, and the Trump Administration's inexplicable actions to diminish the US government's capacity to effectively track and counter such influence.

According to Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community, released by your office in March 2025, the PRC continues to "expand its coercive and subversive malign influence activities to weaken the United States internally and globally..."¹ The assessment notes that Beijing is seeking to "suppress critical views and critics of China within the United States," and that actors with the PRC have "increased their capabilities to conduct covert influence operations..."² Recent media reports, including a *New York Times* article dated August 6, 2025, suggest China is taking steps to substantially bolster its capacity in this space. The article states that the Chinese government is "using companies with expertise in artificial intelligence to monitor and manipulate public opinion, giving it a new weapon in information warfare."³ Specifically, a Chinese company called GoLaxy is emerging as a leader "to engage in technologically advanced, state-aligned influence campaigns," and may be preparing to expand into the United States.⁴

To address the growing threat of FMI, the United States has, over the past years, developed a coordinated network of federal agencies and offices with requisite authorities and capabilities to combat this challenge. Yet instead of strengthening the US government's proficiency on this front, the Trump administration has taken the opposite approach. Since assuming office, the administration has seriously weakened our nation's ability to track and counter foreign interference by the PRC and other adversaries, including by:

- Implementing severe staff cuts at the Foreign Malign Influence Center (FMIC), which was established by Congress as an entity within your office specifically focused on the threats to our nation posed by FMI;⁵

¹ Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, March 2025, <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ATA-2025-Unclassified-Report.pdf>.

² Id.

³ Julian Barnes, "China Turns to AI in Information Warfare," *New York Times*, August 6, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/06/us/politics/china-artificial-intelligence-information-warfare.html>.

⁴ Brett Goldstein and Brett Benson, "The Era of A.I. Propaganda Has Arrived, and America Must Act," *New York Times*, August 5, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/05/opinion/china-ai-propaganda.html>.

⁵ Brittany Gibson, "Tulsi Gabbard Green Lights Plan to Slash ODNI Staff," *Axios*, August 20, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/08/20/tulsi-gabbard-odni-staffing-cuts>; also see "Fact Sheet: ODNI 2.0 Launch,"

- Dismantling the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force, a team of officials from across the bureau dedicated to identifying and disrupting foreign influence operations;⁶
- Firing or placing on administrative leave dozens of officials at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) who were working on foreign election interference;⁷
- Shutting down the State Department's Counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference office, the remaining vestige of the Global Engagement Center;⁸ and
- Reportedly initiating plans to substantially reduce the staff of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), including officials involved in tracking foreign influence in the homeland.⁹

These actions are deeply concerning and will leave our nation increasingly vulnerable to foreign interference, exploitation, and subversion. By stripping away the guardrails that protect our nation from foreign influence, the administration risks undermining the integrity of our democratic institutions, sowing societal divisions, and jeopardizing our nation's security. As the PRC's influence operations gain momentum, we should be strengthening and intensifying our defenses to counter these threats – not diminishing them.

As Director of National Intelligence, you are responsible for ensuring that US intelligence agencies across the government have the capabilities and resources to track and identify influence operations by foreign adversaries and help ensure they are effectively mitigated. To that end, we respectfully request written answers to the following questions, as well as a staff briefing, no later than September 30, 2025:

1. Congress established the Foreign Malign Influence Center as “the primary organization in the United States Government for analyzing and integrating all intelligence possessed or acquired by the United States Government pertaining to foreign malign influence.”¹⁰ Why are you taking steps to hollow out the FMIC, despite the current threat environment?
2. Is the Trump administration concerned about the PRC's expanding efforts to engage in FMI and foreign interference in our democracy? What specific steps is the administration taking to identify and counter these threats?
3. Is ODNI or any other US intelligence agency still tracking political, social, and economic interference activities in the homeland by foreign adversaries, including the PRC?
4. Why was the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force dismantled? In its absence, how can the FBI maintain its capabilities to investigate Chinese malign influence operations in the United States?

Office of the Director of National Intelligence, August 20, 2025, <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/ODNI-20-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

⁶ Steven Lee Meyers, et al, “Trump Dismantles Government Fight against Foreign Influence Operations,” *New York Times*, February 20, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/20/business/trump-foreign-influence-election-interference.html>.

⁷ Jenna McLaughlin, “Efforts to Fight Foreign Influence and Protect Elections in Question under Trump,” *NPR*, February 11, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/11/nx-s1-5293521/foreign-influence-elections-cisa-trump>.

⁸ Adam Taylor, “Rubio Shuts Down Foreign Disinformation Office, Citing Censorship,” *Washington Post*, April 16, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/16/rubio-foreign-disinformation-office-censorship/>.

⁹ Nicole Sganga, “DHS to Cut 75% Staff in Its Intelligence Office Amid Heightened Threat Environment,” *CBS News*, July 3, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dhs-intelligence-arm-to-cut-staff-by-nearly-75/>.

¹⁰ 50 U.S.C. §3059 (2022).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raja Krishnamoorthi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raja" being more prominent.

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andre Carson". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Andre" being more prominent.

Andre Carson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the National Intelligence
Enterprise
House Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence