

The America LEADS Act

The America Labor, Economic competitiveness, Alliances, Democracy and Security (America LEADS) Act provides a comprehensive plan to address the competitive, U.S.-China relationship. The America LEADS Act takes bold steps to invest and establish policies to mobilize all aspects of U.S. national power to counter the threat China poses to our national and economic security. This strategic approach is grounded in getting the broader Indo-Pacific strategy “right,” centered on our alliances and partnerships, animated by America’s longstanding values, and driven by the need, after almost four years of destruction under President Trump, to re-build the U.S. economy and provide our workers with the skills and investments needed to succeed in the twenty-first century.

Additionally, this bill takes significant steps to replenish the sources of our competitiveness here at home, with investments in our workers and entrepreneurs, education system, scientific research and technology development, and American manufacturing. Only when we have a vibrant economy here at home can we truly compete with China abroad.

- The bill invests over \$350 billion in America’s workers, entrepreneurs, manufacturing communities, and researchers. This includes a restoration of investment in federal research and development programs, an expansion of the Manufacturing USA network and rebuilding of manufacturing regions, efforts to strengthen domestic supply chains in materials like PPE and critical technologies, a quadrupling of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, funding and support for leadership in technologies like 5G, quantum, and artificial intelligence, capital programs to support commercialization and the scale-up of domestic production, and a major new initiative to strengthen the nation’s domestic semiconductor industry. The bill also provides a significant influx of new resources for registered apprenticeship, training, and STEM education programs with a focus on building a diverse and inclusive innovation and manufacturing workforce, while also confronting China’s education and influence campaigns by establishing transparency requirements.
- The bill renews the United States diplomatic strategy towards China and reaffirms America’s commitment to its allies around the world and in the Indo-Pacific region, specifically Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, as well as key partners like Taiwan and ASEAN, and calls for the United States to reestablish its leadership within international organizations, like the World Health Organization and G7.
- The bill reaffirms America’s commitment to international security and ensures that all nations can exercise their rights in the region’s international waters and airspace, and directs the United States to provide assistance and training to countries under the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Initiative.
- The bill returns America to a values-centered foreign policy and authorizes a broad range of human rights and civil society measures, with a focus on Tibet, Hong Kong, and Xinjiang. It includes allowing certain citizens to apply for admission to the United States, calls for designations of Chinese officials complicit in human rights violations, including forced labor, strengthening civil society institutions, and greater reciprocity in the treatment of media organizations.
- The bill mandates the President to use the full range of sanctions authorities to combat malign behavior by the Government of China, entities owned or controlled by that Government, and other Chinese individuals and entities responsible for such behavior, including those addressing economic and industrial espionage in cyberspace and violations of human rights of minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The bill would also counter and confront China’s predatory economic behavior, including measures to strengthen trade enforcement across intellectual property, currency manipulation, and counterfeit goods, establishes a task force to identify countervailable subsidies and dumping, calls for a report on investment reciprocity and market access, and establishes measures to counter foreign corrupt practices, hold foreign countries accountable, and calls on entities to disclose cyber theft and connections to or influence from the Chinese Communist Party.