

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9592

To authorize the Secretary of State to take certain actions to counter and reduce threats to the space security of the United States, to require the Secretary of State to provide certain consultations to Congress on the space security of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 6, 2026

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina (for herself and Mr. BERA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to take certain actions to counter and reduce threats to the space security of the United States, to require the Secretary of State to provide certain consultations to Congress on the space security of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Space Lead-
5 ership for the 21st Century Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) maintaining space as a secure, stable, and
2 accessible domain is vital to United States national
3 security, economic prosperity, and technological lead-
4 ership;

5 (2) the United States should coordinate diplo-
6 matic, economic, and security tools to ensure space
7 remains secure and accessible for future use;

8 (3) it is in the interest of the United States to
9 cooperate with its allies and partners to promote
10 space security of the United States and its allies and
11 partners, including through information sharing, co-
12 ordination, and development of interoperable space
13 capabilities;

14 (4) United States space companies are a soft
15 power tool for the nation, providing unique capabili-
16 ties that support the needs of allies and partners,
17 while extending American influence, enhancing
18 United States security and resiliency in space, and
19 benefiting the United States economy;

20 (5) threats to United States space capabilities
21 are growing in scale, speed, and sophistication, risk-
22 ing space-enabled services that underpin national se-
23 curity and power United States economic growth;
24 and

1 (6) the prohibition on the placement of nuclear
2 weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in
3 space, as outlined in the Outer Space Treaty of
4 1967 (entered into force with respect to the United
5 States on October 10, 1967), is important for the
6 continued use of space by all nations.

7 **SEC. 3. COUNTERING THREATS TO SPACE SECURITY OF**
8 **THE UNITED STATES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting
10 through the Under Secretary for Arms Control and Inter-
11 national Security, shall lead the diplomatic engagements
12 of the Department of State to mitigate threats to the
13 space security of the United States.

14 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Under subsection (a), the
15 Under Secretary, in coordination with the head of any
16 other relevant bureau of the Department of State or other
17 Federal department or agency, may—

18 (1) assess current threats to the space interests
19 of the United States and anticipate future threats
20 from low earth orbit through cislunar space, includ-
21 ing by leveraging allied and partner capabilities to
22 assess and attribute actions in space;

23 (2) characterize and communicate threats with
24 allies and partners, where determined appropriate,
25 including risks posed by civil, military, or commer-

1 cial cooperation with the People’s Republic of China
2 or the Russian Federation;

3 (3) coordinate with allies and partners, includ-
4 ing by identifying strategic locations where addi-
5 tional space infrastructure or military cooperation
6 would promote the space security of the United
7 States and its allies and partners; and

8 (4) lead the efforts of the Department of State
9 to promote international norms of behavior in space
10 that are favorable to the national security and for-
11 eign policy priorities of the United States.

12 **SEC. 4. SPACE RISK REDUCTION MEASURES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting
14 through the Under Secretary for Arms Control and Inter-
15 national Security, may pursue international norms and
16 transparency and confidence-building measures on issues
17 of space arms control and military-related space policy
18 issues.

19 (b) RISK REDUCTION.—The Under Secretary, in co-
20 ordination with the head of any other Federal department
21 or agency, may pursue international risk reduction efforts
22 for the purposes of—

23 (1) shaping international norms in space to
24 deter actions in space that would disrupt the space

1 systems of the United States and its allies and part-
2 ners;

3 (2) enhancing the ability of the United States
4 and its allies and partners to assess, attribute, and
5 respond to destabilizing actions in space, including
6 by helping the United States identify if a country
7 places or plans to place a nuclear weapon or nuclear-
8 capable delivery vehicle in space;

9 (3) increasing the strategic costs to an adver-
10 sary for disruptive actions in space;

11 (4) improving communication among allies and
12 partners to reduce the risk of miscommunication or
13 miscalculation regarding threat reduction activities
14 in space;

15 (5) reducing the risk of miscommunication and
16 miscalculation with the People's Republic of China
17 or the Russian Federation;

18 (6) enhancing international cooperation on
19 space domain awareness; and

20 (7) mitigating the intentional creation of debris
21 in space.

22 **SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS RELATED TO OUTER**
23 **SPACE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in con-
25 sultation with the heads of any other Federal department

1 or agency such secretary determines appropriate, is au-
2 thorized to enter into international agreements with allies
3 and partners that enhance United States outer space secu-
4 rity—

5 (1) for the purposes of—

6 (A) information sharing, promoting inter-
7 national access, as appropriate and practical, to
8 United States Government or commercial outer
9 space capabilities, systems, or services; or

10 (B) achieving the responsibilities set forth
11 in section 3(b); and

12 (2) which are mutually beneficial and consistent
13 with the national security or foreign policy priorities
14 of the United States.

15 (b) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.—The Sec-
16 retary of State shall consult with the appropriate congres-
17 sional committees when considering entering into an
18 agreement under subsection (a).

19 (c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary
20 of State shall notify the appropriate congressional commit-
21 tees of its intent to enter into an agreement under sub-
22 section (a) not later than 15 days before the date on which
23 such secretary enters into such agreement.

24 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
25 tion shall be construed to affect the normal procedures

1 for seeking advice and consent from the Senate on treaties
2 within the meaning of Article II of the United States Con-
3 stitution.

4 **SEC. 6. SPACE SECURITY DIALOGUES.**

5 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Sec-
6 retary of Defense and the head of any other Federal de-
7 partment or agency, may initiate space security dialogues
8 with key allies and partners of the United States, which
9 may be held in conjunction with civil and commercial
10 space dialogues, as a forum to discuss efforts to improve
11 allied and partner contributions to collective space secu-
12 rity, including by—

13 (1) identifying opportunities to integrate space
14 security issues into collective defense and deterrence
15 concepts;

16 (2) determining priority areas for investment in
17 space systems that are interoperable and com-
18plementary to space systems of the United States;

19 (3) identify and pursue mechanisms to leverage
20 collective industrial base strengths of allied and
21 partner countries to promote secure and resilient
22 supply chains;

23 (4) identify opportunities where promoting
24 United States space companies can address security
25 and resiliency needs of allies and partners; and

1 (5) coordinating approaches to diplomatic en-
2 gements in international forums on space security
3 issues, including risk reduction efforts, norm-build-
4 ing activities, and engagements in standards-setting
5 organizations that enhance stability and deterrence.

6 **SEC. 7. CONSULTATIONS ON THREATS TO UNITED STATES**
7 **SPACE SECURITY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—No later than 90 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
10 for 3 years, the Secretary of State, acting through the
11 Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Secu-
12 rity, shall consult the appropriate congressional commit-
13 tees on the current and emerging threats to the space se-
14 curity of the United States. The consultations may in-
15 clude—

16 (1) information on any roles and responsibilities
17 of the Department of State pursuant to Executive
18 Order 14369 (90 Fed. Reg. 60537; relating to en-
19 suring American space superiority);

20 (2) threats posed to the space interests of the
21 United States and its allies and partners from the
22 military or dual-use space systems of the adversaries
23 of the United States;

24 (3) an assessment of such adversaries' inten-
25 tions in the space domain and their posture toward

1 developing international norms or bilateral or multi-
2 lateral risk reduction mechanisms in space;

3 (4) the Department of State's efforts to prevent
4 such adversaries from endangering the space sys-
5 tems of the United States, including through efforts
6 with allies and partners and shaping international
7 norms for behavior in space;

8 (5) information on any country's plans or intent
9 to put a nuclear weapon in space;

10 (6) the intent of the People's Republic of China
11 or the Russian Federation to use ground-based or
12 in-orbit counterspace systems against the space as-
13 sets of the United States or efforts to hold such as-
14 sets at risk;

15 (7) the status of international discussions on
16 space arms control or related space security issues,
17 including transparency and confidence building
18 measures and space security dialogues undertaken
19 under section 6;

20 (8) an identification of any existing barriers, in-
21 cluding policies, processes, or authorities that limit
22 the ability of United States companies to cooperate
23 with allies and partners, and information on the
24 steps the Secretary of State is taking to address
25 such barriers; and

1 (9) actions taken in the preceding year, or
2 planned coordination for the proceeding year, with
3 allies and partners to safeguard the space security
4 interests of the United States and its allies and
5 partners.

6 (b) ADVERSARY CHANGES.—Not later than 30 days
7 after the date on which the Secretary of State determines
8 that there has been a significant change to the space pos-
9 ture, intention, or capability of an adversary of the United
10 States, the Secretary shall notify and consult the appro-
11 priate congressional committees on such change.

12 **SEC. 8. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
13 **FINED.**

14 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees” means—

16 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
17 House of Representatives; and

18 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
19 Senate.

○