

Senator Schumer Opening Remarks
Ninth AI Insight Forum
December 6, 2023

Welcome to the Senate's ninth bipartisan AI Insight Forum, on one of the most critical and urgent areas of AI: national security.

Thanks to Senators Rounds, Heinrich, and Young and their staffs for organizing a successful series of forums.

Thanks to my Senate colleagues and staff who are here today. And, of course, thanks to our participants.

For everyone's awareness, here's how the afternoon will look:

I'll start us off with a discussion on promoting innovation and competition with the Chinese government.

Afterward, Senators Rounds, Young, and Heinrich will moderate their own sections.

There is no doubt that the United States leads the world in AI development and research. This leadership gives America a competitive edge that can greatly benefit the deployment of AI to strengthen our national security.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must continue to work diligently to maintain that advantage, which is the topic of this forum.

Today, we will discuss how AI can be deployed to defend American interests around the globe, from gaining intelligence insights, to supercharging our cyber capabilities, to maximizing the efficiency of platforms like drones and fighter jets.

We will also tackle important questions on how the U.S. can foster innovation in AI within our defense industrial base.

How do we ensure the Pentagon and our intelligence agencies procure and maintain the most advanced AI systems?

How do we create an environment that encourages AI startups to create systems that benefit our national security?

Finally, we will address the risks that our adversaries can pose if we let them get ahead on advanced AI.

The only other country investing in AI like the U.S. is China. Since 2017, the Chinese government has made significant investments to build indigenous AI capacity for both military and commercial means.

Chinese investors have also invested heavily in commercial AI around the world, not only here in the U.S., but also in countries like India, Japan, and Australia.

China has also aggressively pursued investments in its AI capacity and resources because the Chinese government realizes the immense value of this technology.

So, no discussion of AI for national security purposes can ignore the importance of competition with the Chinese government on AI.

We have a diverse panel here today, including experts on the defense industry, labor, civil rights, national security, China, and more. So, I expect we will have an informative discussion.