

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

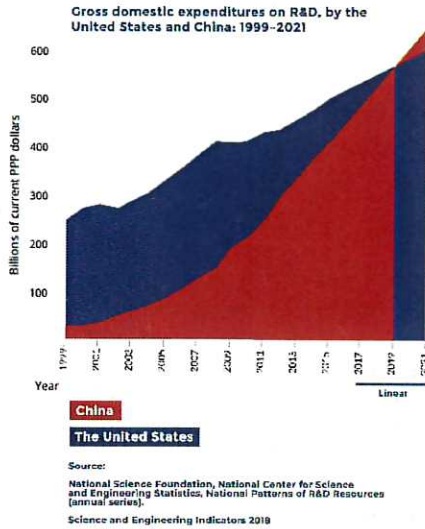
Opening Statement
Ranking Member Robin Kelly
Hearing on “Game Changers: Artificial Intelligence Part II, Artificial Intelligence and the
Federal Government”
March 7, 2018

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling today’s important hearing on federal agencies adoption of artificial intelligence or AI. This is the second hearing in a three-part series of hearings on AI.

Today’s hearing focuses on the federal government’s adoption of this technology. AI has the potential to make government more efficient and decrease costs across agencies. To fully realize the benefits of AI, the US must maintain its leadership role in promoting technological innovation. Yet, preserving the United States’ leadership role in technologies like AI will require robust federal funding for research and development. But at our first hearing on AI, Intel’s Chief Technology Officer for AI warned us that, quote, “Current federal funding levels are not keeping pace with the rest of the industrialized world.”

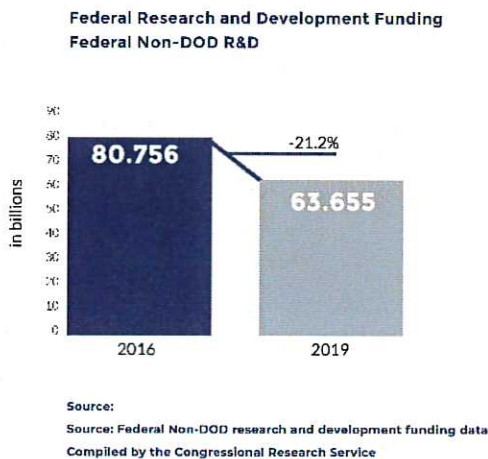
In fact, President Trump’s proposed budget for FY 2019 cuts or flattens non-military agency budgets for R&D.

As you’ll see on the screens, the trend is so clear that the National Science Board and the National Science Foundation believe that China will surpass the United States in R&D investments by the end of this year. The chart displayed demonstrates China’s rapidly growing investment and the US ceding its position as a leader in AI.



The future of U.S. innovation is at stake. This should be a cause of concern for everyone.

Outside of the Department of Defense, the President’s budget proposes an overall cut to research and development of 21.2 percent. Consider, for example, the National Science Foundation, whose investments in R&D have led to inventions that improve our everyday life. From Google to Lasik eye surgery to cloud computing, all can be traced to NSF investment in technology.

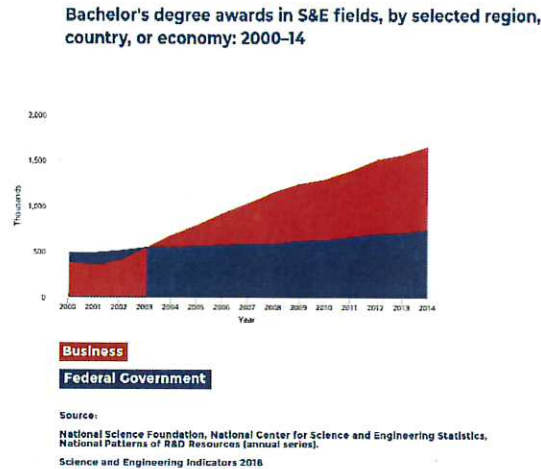


This chart shows President Trump’s precipitous drop in non-defense R&D spending.

In an agency like the National Science Foundation (NSF), which supports basic research in college and universities and in the private sector, this budget represented almost a 29% decrease from the agency’s actual spending levels in 2017.

These budget cuts take the United States in the wrong direction.

Another troubling trend for the U.S. is that we are not making the critical investments today to educate the workforce we need to sustain these industries of the future.



The displayed chart shows the number of science and engineering undergraduates in China compared to the United States. As you can see, we are not keeping pace with China, which is displayed in red.

Yet another troubling factor is this administration's hostility to immigrants. Until recently, the U.S. was able to attract Ph.D. students from other countries to help supplement the domestic workforce. The New York Times reported last year that not only is Google opening A.I. innovation hubs in Canada because of concerns with American immigration policies but that the U.S. has already turned away promising people in the AI field.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration's science, immigration and education policies are all working together to reduce the U.S. lead in AI technologies.

I hope today we can discuss the policies and funding necessary to ensure we remain competitive in this area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Contact: Jennifer Werner, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181.