

The American Technology Leadership Act

Senator Michael Bennet, Senator Ben Sasse, and Senator Mark Warner

Today, there is no federal entity responsible for assessing U.S. leadership in key technologies relative to strategic competitors like China. Although the Department of Defense evaluates how our battleships, tanks, and aircraft compare to other nations, there is no equivalent process for critical technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing, despite their far-reaching consequences for America's national security and economic prosperity.

The bipartisan American Technology Leadership Act would establish an Office of Global Competition Analysis to bolster U.S. competitiveness by analyzing how the United States fares in critical technologies relative to other countries to inform policymakers and promote U.S. competitiveness.

The Office of Global Competition Analysis would assess U.S. technology competitiveness based on a fusion of intelligence and commercial data, which today are too often siloed in intelligence and civilian agencies, respectively. This has often left the United States blind to its relative strength in critical technologies compared to other nations, like in the cases of 5G and semiconductors.

The Office of Global Competition Analysis would be staffed by experts from the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and Defense, along with the Intelligence Community and other relevant agencies. The new Office could also draw on experts from the private sector and academia on a project basis, and the legislation allows it to leverage the capability of an existing Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC). The Office would support both economic and national security policy makers. The White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), National Economic Council, and the National Security Council (NSC) would jointly set priorities and project requirements.

Specifically, a technology net assessment capability will enable the U.S. government to:

- Identify which technologies will matter most to America's economic and national security;
- Evaluate America's technology leadership relative to other countries; and
- Determine the appropriate policy response to ensure U.S. leadership.

This proposal builds off of two provisions Bennet and Sasse wrote last year to establish a National Technology Strategy and a new Technology Competitiveness Council at the White House.