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S. 5307

To require a strategy to align immigration-related policies with the national interest in ensuring United States leadership and dominance in artificial intelligence and in strengthening the broader ecosystem of scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial innovation, while protecting national security.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require a strategy to align immigration-related policies with the national interest in ensuring United States leadership and dominance in artificial intelligence and in strengthening the broader ecosystem of scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial innovation, while protecting national security.

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 “Artificial Intelligence
5 and Innovation Talent Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The United States is engaged in strategic
4 competition with foreign adversaries to achieve lead-
5 ership and dominance in artificial intelligence and
6 other critical and emerging technologies.

7 (2) Preservation of the primacy of the United
8 States in artificial intelligence is a national impera-
9 tive that is critical to maintaining the global leader-
10 ship, economic prosperity, and national security of
11 the United States.

12 (3) Congress commends the action plan pub-
13 lished by the Trump administration titled America's
14 AI Action Plan, dated July 2025, for its commit-
15 ment to winning the race for artificial intelligence
16 dominance.

17 (4) Leadership on artificial intelligence depends
18 on building a broad and robust ecosystem of sci-
19 entific, technological, industrial, and entrepreneurial
20 innovation.

21 (5) Foreign adversaries are investing heavily in
22 talent recruitment, education, and industrial policy
23 to gain advantage in artificial intelligence and inno-
24 vation by attracting, retaining, or repatriating highly
25 skilled individuals.

1 (6) The ability of the United States to attract,
2 admit, and retain highly skilled individuals, includ-
3 ing foreign nationals, is a key determinant of wheth-
4 er the United States will maintain leadership and
5 achieve dominance in artificial intelligence and sus-
6 tain innovation leadership more broadly.

7 (7) Failure to attract and retain such talent
8 risks ceding technological leadership and strategic
9 advantage to foreign adversaries.

10 (8) Statutes, policies, regulations, guidance, and
11 practices relating to the admission, retention, and
12 employment authorization of foreign nationals mate-
13 rially affect the ability of the United States to com-
14 pete effectively with foreign adversaries.

15 (9) Appropriate and thoughtful policies to at-
16 tract high-skilled talent and to grow the innovation
17 economy of the United States will strengthen oppor-
18 tunities for American workers.

19 (10) As of 2025, 60 percent of the top artificial
20 intelligence companies based in the United States
21 had at least one immigrant founder, and key indus-
22 try leaders have well-known foreign founders, and
23 the leading artificial intelligence companies with im-
24 migrant founders are collectively responsible for cre-

1 ating thousands of high-paying jobs in the United
2 States and driving billions of dollars in investment.

3 (11) The United States must ensure that it
4 maintains robust safeguards to protect sensitive
5 technologies, intellectual property, and national secu-
6 rity.

7 (12) A coordinated national strategy is required
8 to align immigration-related policies with the na-
9 tional interest in strengthening the United States in-
10 novation ecosystem and domestic workforce opportu-
11 nities, achieving artificial intelligence dominance,
12 and protecting against national security risks.

13 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND IN-**
14 **NOVATION TALENT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
17 Security, in coordination with the Director of the Office
18 of Science and Technology Policy and the Secretary of
19 State, and with input from members of industry, stake-
20 holders, and the public, shall develop and publish a strat-
21 egy to ensure that Federal policies, regulations, guidance,
22 and practices are aligned, to the maximum extent con-
23 sistent with existing law, with the goal of advancing the
24 ability of the United States to attract, admit, retain, and

1 appropriately vet foreign talent and cultivate domestic tal-
2 ent who can—

3 (1) promote United States leadership and domi-
4 nance in artificial intelligence and other critical and
5 emerging technologies, including through the cre-
6 ation of new economic opportunities for citizens of
7 the United States; and

8 (2) strengthen the broader ecosystem of sci-
9 entific, technological, and entrepreneurial innovation.

10 (b) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The strategy required
11 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

12 (1) COMPETITIVE BARRIERS.—An assessment
13 of how current Federal statutes, policies, regula-
14 tions, guidance, and practices affect the ability of
15 the United States to compete with foreign adver-
16 saries in attracting and retaining individuals contrib-
17 uting to artificial intelligence and to scientific, tech-
18 nological, and entrepreneurial innovation more
19 broadly.

20 (2) INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION.—
21 An assessment of how immigration-related statutes,
22 policies, regulations, guidance, and practices affect
23 entrepreneurship, company formation, and the devel-
24 opment, scaling, and commercialization of new tech-
25 nologies in the United States.

1 (3) RETENTION OF UNITED STATES-TRAINED
2 TALENT.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—An evaluation of op-
4 tions to improve immigration pathways for and
5 the retention of foreign nationals educated or
6 trained in the United States, including re-
7 searchers, engineers, and founders whose work
8 contributes to technological leadership, innova-
9 tion, and economic competitiveness.

10 (B) SKILL DEVELOPMENT.—The evalua-
11 tion required in subparagraph (A) shall exam-
12 ine how to ensure relevant skills are developed
13 in citizens of the United States, including
14 through direct skill transference, joint ventures
15 in specific industries, and apprenticeship pro-
16 grams in specialized skill areas.

17 (4) TALENT IDENTIFICATION.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—An assessment of the
19 need for and potential implementation of a
20 dedicated talent identification organization
21 within the Government or the private sector
22 to—

23 (i) identify top needed technical and
24 specialized talent willing to work in the
25 United States; and

1 (ii) work with agencies to address any
2 barriers for such talent to work in the
3 United States, where compatible with the
4 national security of the United States.

5 (B) HIGH-PRIORITY OCCUPATIONS.—The
6 assessment required in subparagraph (A) shall
7 identify high-priority occupations, predict the
8 number of individuals that will be needed to fill
9 each of these occupations each year over the
10 next 5 calendar years, and analyze in detail
11 whether there will be sufficient domestic talent
12 to fill these occupations.

13 (5) NATIONAL SECURITY AND VETTING.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—A description of meas-
15 ures to ensure risk-based screening and vetting
16 procedures to protect national security from
17 foreign adversaries, including the safeguarding
18 of sensitive technologies and intellectual prop-
19 erty, such as process innovations gained from
20 hands-on work and research in critical indus-
21 tries.

22 (B) RISK.—Such a description shall in-
23 clude steps taken, including screening and vet-
24 ting procedures, to identify and address specific
25 risks within the immigration and education sys-

1 tems of the United States that may be exploited
2 by foreign adversary nations in order to com-
3 pete with the United States economically or act
4 in ways that jeopardize the national security of
5 the United States.

6 (6) METRICS AND BENCHMARKS.—The identi-
7 fication of metrics and benchmarks, including where
8 practicable measures of processing times, retention
9 outcomes, and competitiveness relative to foreign ad-
10 versaries, to evaluate progress in strengthening
11 United States competitiveness in artificial intel-
12 ligence and innovation while addressing national se-
13 curity risks.

14 (7) ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND REGULATORY
15 RECOMMENDATIONS.—Recommendations for admin-
16 istrative, regulatory, or policy actions that can be
17 taken under existing authority to reduce unnecessary
18 barriers, improve efficiency and predictability, and
19 enhance the global competitiveness of the United
20 States in attracting, retaining, and cultivating such
21 talent, including revisions to the H-1B non-
22 immigrant visa registration and selection process, in-
23 cluding the lottery system and the selection cap, to
24 make sure that the H-1B program attracts the tal-

ent that would best support the competitiveness and needs of the United States.

(8) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECOMMENDATIONS.—Recommendations for how Federal agencies can better partner with industry and the private sector to attract and retain talent, including means to improve industry recruitment, headhunting, and sponsorship planning.

(9) LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.—Recommendations for legislative changes, including—

(A) changes to the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), that would further advance the goals of the strategy; and

(B) the creation of a visa class specifically focused on facilitating immigration pathways for entrepreneurs in high-priority sectors, including artificial intelligence and quantum technologies.

(10) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—A description of how relevant Federal departments and agencies will coordinate to implement the strategy.

(c) FORM.—The strategy required under subsection

(a) shall be submitted to the appropriate committees of

1 Congress in unclassified form but may include a classified
2 annex.

3 (d) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than
4 2 years after the submission of the strategy required
5 under subsection (c), the Secretary of Homeland Security
6 shall publish and submit to the appropriate committees
7 of Congress a report on the implementation of the strat-
8 egy, including—

9 (1) a description of actions taken to implement
10 the strategy;

11 (2) progress measured according to the metrics
12 and benchmarks identified under subsection (b)(6);
13 and

14 (3) any updates to the recommendations.

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