

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery by Chair Maggie Hassan  
Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight Subcommittee Hearing:  
“Advanced Technology: Examining Threats to National Security”  
September 19, 2023**

Before we get started today, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the impact that Ranking Member Romney has had on the Senate in his time here, and note that I will miss working with him when he retires.

Ranking Member Romney has been an incredible partner both on this committee and in the important bipartisan legislation that the Senate has passed in the last few years.

Senator Romney, your dedication to public service is clear, and the people of Utah, Massachusetts, and the United States are better off due to your years in elected office.

Thank you for your hard work, I look forward to continuing our important work for the remainder of this Congress.

Good morning, and welcome to our distinguished panel of witnesses.

Thank you for appearing today to discuss potential threats to national security posed by advanced and emerging technologies, and what steps the federal government can take to mitigate risk and encourage the responsible development of next-generation technologies.

I also want to thank Ranking Member Romney and his staff for working with us on this hearing, and for our continued partnership to address emerging threats to the nation.

Today’s hearing brings together a group of experts in technology policy who have previously served as government officials, and who are now providing important and valued insight on the development and applications of advanced technologies.

We will hear about the potential dangers to public safety and security that may be posed by emerging technologies – such as artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

We will also hear about the actions that Congress and the Executive branch can take to mitigate these risks while still working to maintain the United States’ technological innovation edge and stay ahead of our global adversaries.

Public and private investment in the United States have fueled the rapid growth in the power and availability of artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and other emerging technologies, and our nation is well positioned to benefit from the technological revolution that is already underway.

However, bad actors will also undoubtedly seek to use these powerful technologies to launch a higher volume of new and more severe attacks aimed at the American people.

As we will hear today, AI and other advanced technologies pose real public safety risks, which Congress is just beginning to address.

For example - although there has been considerable Congressional attention paid to many of the public safety risks posed by artificial intelligence, there has been less focus on so-called “catastrophic” risks posed by AI – such as the ability of AI to help terrorists develop and use unconventional weapons.

I’m working on a framework to support research into safer AI that – in its fundamental design – cannot easily be abused by criminals, and cannot easily behave in unexpected ways that harm the public.

Congress needs to look closely at ways to require AI to be designed in a fundamentally safer way, and – in time – require all AI hardware to be restricted to running only fundamentally safe systems.

I look forward to hearing from all of our witnesses about how Congress and the federal government can successfully encourage technological growth and keep the American people safe, secure, and free.