



SENATOR TILLIS' PLAN TO HOLD CHINA ACCOUNTABLE FOR COVID-19

*Protect America's Economy,
Public Health, and National Security*



THOM TILLIS
U.S. SENATOR *for* NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Tillis' Plan To Hold China Accountable for COVID-19 and Protect America's Economy, Public Health, and National Security

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is no friend to America or the world. One study found that had the Chinese government told the world the truth about COVID-19 and acted only 3 weeks earlier, cases of the virus could have been cut by 95 percent and could have spared the world of this pandemic.

Tragically, the Chinese government was neither honest nor responsible. The CCP engaged in one of the largest cover-ups in modern history—knowingly allowing the spread of COVID-19 outside its borders and lying to the world in order to avoid international embarrassment.

China's heinous conduct has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths and plunged the world into a major economic crisis with significant lasting consequences. The CCP has continued to abdicate its international responsibilities, ramping up a global propaganda campaign to smear the United States and cast China in a favorable light. They have preyed on foreign countries in need of critical medical supplies, acting as a savior while delivering faulty and counterfeit equipment.

The United States must hold China accountable for their lies, deception, and malicious actions before, during, and after this pandemic.

The Chinese government sacrificed its own citizens, refusing to inform vulnerable people of the risk of human transmission and preventing them from protecting themselves when there was still time. They arrested and silenced the doctor who first raised the alarm about the danger and severity of the virus and the widespread risk it posed. They immorally ordered laboratories to destroy test samples and stop testing, intentionally crippling any early efforts to study this virus and develop necessary preventative measures. Then the CCP deliberately denied and downplayed the potential for human to human transmission, despite having clear evidence to the contrary, even encouraging the Chinese people to travel to celebrate the New Year. The CCP also exploited its influence at the World Health Organization (WHO), forcing the WHO to parrot its deceptive statements, assuring the rest of the world that there was no cause for concern.

The Chinese government, while continuing to insist the virus was under control, began deliberately attacking the United States for “inappropriately overreacting” after the enactment of a ban on most travel to and from China. As COVID-19 spread across the world, the CCP further abused the pandemic for its own geopolitical gain. They secretly purchased and hoarded the global supply of face masks, refusing to export its stash of medical supplies and leaving the rest of the world defenseless against COVID-19. Most egregiously, the CCP began a concerted disinformation push aimed at discrediting the United States and scaring and dividing the American people. The Chinese government continues to propagate disgraceful conspiracy theories, blaming the U.S. military for creating the virus and waging an aggressive anti-American campaign on all media platforms throughout the world.

Now there are serious questions regarding the origins of the virus and the role the CCP played in the spread of the virus.

This is a major warning to the United States and the rest of the global community about the nefarious intentions of the Chinese government. The CCP maliciously covered up and enabled a global pandemic. This is the same regime that locks up political and religious dissidents in labor camps, steals America's technology and jobs, and threatens the sovereignty of our allies.

It's important that we make a clear distinction between the CCP and the citizens of China. The citizens of China are not adversaries of the United States. This is not about the Chinese people, and it's certainly not about the millions of patriotic Chinese-Americans and Asian-Americans who have immigrated to the United States for the last two centuries and have made and continue to make vast contributions to our nation.

The citizens of China are not our enemies; they're the victims of a totalitarian government that denies basic freedoms, human rights, and the rule of law. When the residents of Hong Kong bravely took to the streets, the Chinese government resorted to coercion and violence to silence their voices. The citizens of China deserve better, and the American people should sympathize with their plight. The best way to do that is to contain and neutralize the CCP through a concerted, long-term plan.

We cannot afford to sugarcoat the ambitions of the Chinese government: their ultimate goal is to overtake the United States as the world's top superpower and realign the international system to serve China's nefarious interests. As a United States Senator, I will do everything in my power to protect the economy, public health, and national security of the United States and maintain our position as the leader of the world that protects sovereignty, enforces the rule of law, and respects human rights.

That's why I'm introducing a 18-point plan of action to take the Chinese government head-on.

My plan aims to accomplish two objectives.

The first objective is to hold the Chinese government directly accountable for allowing COVID-19 to become a global pandemic and then trying to cover it up. My plan proposes a series of actions to begin immediately investigating and sanctioning the Chinese government for its transgressions.

The second objective is to contain the Chinese government in the long-term and halt their military, technological, and economic ambitions to prevent them from overtaking the United States as the world's top superpower. My plan lays out a blueprint to reduce our dependency on China by moving our manufacturing from China back home to the United States. My plan also offers solutions that will stop China from stealing our technology so we can regain our advantage on scientific research, development, and innovation.



Senator Thom Tillis

THE TILLIS PLAN TO HOLD THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR COVID-19

PROTECT AMERICA'S ECONOMY FROM CHINA

1. Move American manufacturing back to the U.S. from China and gradually eliminate our supply chain dependency on China.
2. Stop China from stealing our technology and provide incentives to American companies to regain our technological advantage.
3. Strengthen cybersecurity against Chinese hacks and sabotage.
4. Prevent American taxpayer money from being used by the Chinese government to pay off its debt.
5. Implement the U.S. ban on Huawei and coordinate with our allies to implement similar bans.

SANCTION CHINA

6. Seek restitution from the Chinese government and impose sanctions for lying about the virus.
7. Sanction China for their atrocious human rights record.
8. Formally request the IOC to withdraw the 2022 Winter Olympics from Beijing.
9. Stop China's propaganda campaign inside the United States.
10. Treat Chinese government-run media outlets as the propaganda proxies that they are.

INVESTIGATE CHINA

11. Investigate the Chinese government's cover-up of the spread of COVID-19.
12. Investigate America's reliance on China's supply chains and threats to public safety and national security.

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

13. Ensure the independence of the WHO through investigations and reform.
14. Expose and counter China's predatory debt-trap diplomacy targeting developing countries.
15. Increase intelligence sharing on potential pandemics and lead the creation of a watchdog organization to monitor foreign governments' handling of risky viruses.

EXPAND AMERICA'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA TO COUNTER CHINA

16. Create a Pacific Deterrence Initiative and immediately approve the military's request for \$20 billion in funding to deter China.
17. Deepen our military ties with regional allies and expand equipment sales to Taiwan, India, and Vietnam.
18. Encourage Japan to rebuild its military and offer Japan and South Korea sales of offensive military equipment.

THE TIMELINE OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S COVER-UP

November 17, 2019

- The earliest case of COVID-19 was traced to a resident of China, according to government data seen by the South China Morning Post.

December, 2019

- Patients are admitted to hospitals in Wuhan with SARS-like symptoms.

December 26, 2019

- A Chinese lab sequences most of the virus' genome, confirming it was a new virus similar to SARS.

December 27, 2019

- Wuhan health officials are briefed about the lab's findings about the new virus.

December 30, 2019

- Dr. Li Wenliang of the Wuhan Central Hospital blows the whistle online about patients in Wuhan suffering from a SARS-like illness.

December 31, 2019

- Local authorities close down Wuhan's Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market.
- The Taiwanese government warns the WHO about a new virus spreading in China and requested more information from the WHO.

January 1, 2020

- The Chinese government orders testing to stop and samples to be destroyed.
- The Chinese government publicly reprimands eight Chinese doctors for "rumor mongering" on national television.

January 2, 2020

- Chinese researchers map the virus' complete genetic information, but keeps the information hidden from the world for a week.

January 3, 2020

- Dr. Li Wenliang is interrogated by Chinese police and is forced to issue a written apology for "making false comments."

January 5-17, 2020

- The Chinese government reports no new cases despite hundreds of patients going to hospitals with symptoms.

January 9, 2020

- While the Chinese government finally announces it has mapped the genetic information of the virus, it omits critical information about how quickly the virus spreads and how deadly it is. The WHO issues a statement that explicitly "advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China."

January 11-17, 2020

- The Wuhan Health Commission lies to residents by claiming there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission.

January 14, 2020

- The WHO falsely announces that there is no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission based on information from the Chinese government.

- As Chinese authorities were publicly downplaying the virus, the head of China's National Health Commission warns during a confidential teleconference, that "the risk of transmission and spread is high. All localities must prepare for and respond to a pandemic."

January 18, 2020

- The Wuhan Health Commission announces four new cases, but downplays the risk of human-to-human transmission, allowing 40,000 families to gather for a potluck dinner to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

January 20, 2020

- A week after the Chinese government secretly acknowledged they were facing a potential pandemic, Chinese President Xi Jinping publicly acknowledges the virus for the first time, saying it "must be taken seriously."

- A Chinese epidemiologist publicly acknowledges the virus can be spread from human-to-human.

January 23, 2020

- The Chinese government locks down Wuhan and three other Chinese cities.

January 23-30, 2020

- The Chinese government begins to purchase much of the world's supply of face masks, importing 56 million respirators and masks in just one week.

January 31, 2020

- President Trump announces a ban on travel for passengers from China. The Chinese government attacks the ban, accusing the U.S. of "inappropriately overreacting." Days later, the WHO Director-General praises China's response and criticizes travel restrictions as "increasing fear and stigma, with little public health benefit."

THE TILLIS PLAN TO HOLD CHINA ACCOUNTABLE AND PROTECT AMERICA



PROTECT AMERICA'S ECONOMY FROM CHINA

- 1. Move manufacturing back to the United States from China and gradually eliminate our supply chain dependency on China to protect the economic health, public health, and national security of the United States.**

As we have seen during the last few months, the Chinese government has hoarded and prevented the flow of critical personal protective equipment (PPE) in times of need. Supply chains have become extended and fragile, and the crisis we are going through has hastened the need for a holistic review of how American businesses structure the manufacturing and movement of goods, especially goods that are essential to protecting public health and our national security.

The solution: The United States should incentivize moving manufacturing back to the United States. Congress can look at the recent policy implemented by the Japanese government, which called for the re-establishment of supply chains and earmarked billions of dollars to assist domestic companies to move production back to Japan or to diversify their production bases to allied countries.

- 2. Prevent China from stealing our technology and regain our edge over China in scientific innovation by providing incentives to American companies in all industries to spend more on researching new products, technologies, and services.**

One of the reasons the United States has the most dynamic and prosperous economy in the world has been our robust public and private spending for research and development. Simply put, the United States is the most innovative and resourceful country in the world. However, China is steadily closing the innovation gap, in-part because they continue to steal America's technology and through large

government spending on research and development (R&D). More than 1 in 5 companies in North America have reported that China has stolen their intellectual property, costing the American economy up to \$600 billion a year. China is making a clear play to steal its way into becoming the world leader in R&D and technology, and we need a plan of action to stop it from happening.

UP TO \$600 BILLION: THE ESTIMATED COST OF CHINA'S THEFT OF AMERICA'S TECHNOLOGY AND GOODS

The solution: The United States needs to take proactive steps to not only bolster our nation's R&D innovators, but also to counter the Chinese government's attempts to steal our technology and commit espionage against American businesses:

- A. Increase the federal research & development tax credit to incentivize companies to continue innovation and maintain our economic edge over China. We must protect our industrial base, especially in critical technology sectors, during this recession through the expansion of the Department of Defense (DOD) Trusted Capital Marketplace Program, DIUx (DOD program that seeks to connect Silicon Valley with government), and Small Business Association (SBA) loans and relief financing.
- B. Impose stiffer punishments on China for commercial espionage. China is using and pioneering new and novel strategies (including cyber and corporate insiders) as well as older techniques (physical thefts) to steal technology and innovation from American companies. They are using state-owned enterprises, private companies, and even graduates and researchers at our universities to conduct this espionage. This requires an all hands-on deck response from the FBI, DOJ, DOD, as well as information sharing with our colleges and universities. Targeted screening for visas and entrance into the United States must be reviewed and strengthened.
- C. Limit Chinese capital access to the U.S. market by continuing to revitalize the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment (CFIUS). The Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA), under the jurisdiction of the Senate Banking Committee was passed into law in 2018. FIRRMA strengthens and modernizes CFIUS. Since CFIUS includes 16 U.S. departments and agencies and rulemaking is still being completed, we must continue to augment and possibly pass new laws if our intelligence agencies see blind spots to our current approach.

3. Strengthen Cybersecurity Against Chinese Hacks And Sabotage

Chinese hacking remains the largest cyber threat the United States currently faces. Cyberattacks originating in China are more targeted, focused, and sophisticated with the clear intent of stealing intellectual property and trade secrets to further China's military capabilities and advance its commercial interests at the expense of the United States. The United States has traced many cyberattacks to a specific unit within the People's Liberation Army (PLA) dedicated solely to hacking U.S. companies. The United States has even found evidence that Chinese hackers are attempting to steal American research into the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The solution: To deter the Chinese government from conducting cyberattacks, the United States should sanction Chinese companies that directly benefit from stolen technology and intellectual property. We should also invest in new defensive cybersecurity capabilities and improve cybersecurity government-wide to protect against incoming attacks. We should not shy away from investing in offensive cyber capabilities and retaliating when warranted. To do so, we should expand existing authorities to allow for

the National Security Administration (NSA) and DoD to conduct counterattacks.

The United States government should also take a more proactive approach in guarding critical technology sectors, like artificial intelligence, biotech, quantum computing, hypersonics research, and other emerging capabilities from cyberattacks. As most new technologies develop in the private sector, the U.S. government needs to improve its ability to educate, warn, and guard against the CCP hacking these industries. The United States should also continue to raise its concerns regarding Chinese cyberattacks at all available junctures, summits, and trade negotiations.

4. Prevent American taxpayer money from being used by the Chinese government to pay off their debt.

As the global economy contracts and commodity and export prices decline, emerging market countries are facing severe stress. Many of these developing nations have agreed to infrastructure and development deals with China that contain significant debt. As institutions like the International Monetary Fund consider financial support for these countries, it is critical that we understand the extent of this debt so that American taxpayer money doesn't directly or indirectly go to paying off Chinese government debt.

The solution: The United States should establish a taskforce comprised of financial and development experts to make sure that American taxpayer-funded support, loans, or capital does not directly or indirectly go to developing countries that use those funds to pay off or service Chinese government debt. The taskforce would also examine whether the beneficiary of a country has already fallen into China's orbit and whether providing support would end up benefiting Chinese goals.

5. Implement the U.S. ban on Huawei and coordinate with our allies to implement similar bans and provide support to American telecommunications companies to better compete globally against Huawei—including incentivizing and facilitating the adoption of O-RAN networks.



Huawei is an entity of the Chinese Communist Party disguised as a private company. Huawei facilitates Chinese government spying around the world. It poses a dire cybersecurity and counterintelligence risk to our national security and threatens our geopolitical position. Our American-based, private telecommunications providers struggle to compete with government-backed companies like Huawei and ZTE and are losing in global competition. Once a country decides to adopt Huawei, they are locked into Huawei's telecom infrastructure and services. It is imperative the United States support an American-based solution as an alternative to the spying-arm of the CCP.

The solution: The United States should not allow Huawei to operate inside the United States and needs to continue working with our allies and partners to prevent other countries from choosing Huawei for their 5G solutions. We need to support policies that advance Open-RAN adoption to better increase vendor flexibility, further competition, advance innovation, and lower prices. This will help us truly compete with the government-backed one-stop-telecommunications shop that is Huawei.

SANCTION CHINA

6. **Seek restitution and impose sanctions on the Chinese government for lying about the virus facilitating its spread across the world.**



This was not the first life-threatening coronavirus that came from China, and it will likely not be the last. Unless the Chinese government is held accountable and punished, history will repeat itself. We cannot afford another global pandemic enabled by a nefarious and irresponsible actor like the Chinese government that takes innocent lives and causes our economy to crash.

The Chinese government has a long history of being an irresponsible actor with a fundamental disregard for human life and human rights. Not only did the Chinese government conceal their knowledge of COVID-19 during the early stages of the viral outbreak, they also sabotaged the ability of their own researchers to further study its risks, imprisoned and silenced those doctors raising the alarm, failed

to warn its own citizens, pressured international organizations to downplay concerns, and deliberately doctored statistics to appear better in control of its spread.

The solution: The Chinese government is directly responsible for the spread of COVID-19 and victims throughout the United States should have the right to sue the Chinese government for restitution. Several class action lawsuits in several states have already been filed. While individuals and businesses have been irreparably damaged, since China has sovereign immunity under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976, these lawsuits will likely be dismissed. However, Congress has allowed lawsuits against Saudi Arabia by passing legislation, and Congress could potentially pass a new law that strips this immunity from a country that covered-up and enabled the spread of COVID-19. Congress should study how this legislation could be implemented without undue damage to America's strategic interests.

The United States should also sanction the Chinese government for lying about and enabling the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Sanctions should be aimed at altering the CCP's behavior for the good of all countries and people in the world.

Congress should pass new legislation, the Li Wenliang Global Public Health Accountability Act, which is modeled after the Magnitsky Act. This new legislation will allow the President to sanction Chinese government officials for their part in the cover-up and subsequent disinformation campaign. The sanctions include banning Chinese officials from traveling to the United States, revocation of existing U.S. visas, and blocking of all property within the United States.

7. Sanction China for their atrocious human rights record.



The Chinese government has a horrifying record on human rights, including forcing Muslim minorities into “re-education” internment camps in Xinjiang, violently subduing democratic rights activists in Hong Kong, and arresting and torturing Tibetan activists. The United States and the international community have not been tough enough on holding the Chinese government accountable for its disgusting human rights violations. It needs to change now.

The solution: The United States must take the lead in sanctioning the Chinese government for its human rights violations. The United States should begin utilizing the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to punish Chinese government leaders who have directly or indirectly engaged in gross human rights abuses. Congress should also pass and get the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act to the President's desk, which would initiate annual reports on the Chinese government's treatment of Muslims and use of internment camps. The reports could be instructive to the United States on sanctions that should be imposed on Chinese government officials.

8. Formally request the International Olympics Committee (IOC) to withdraw the 2022 Winter Olympics from Beijing.



Despite the Chinese government's responsibility in covering-up COVID-19 and allowing it to become a global pandemic, Beijing is currently slated to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, unfairly allowing China to reap the economic benefits and positive media coverage that comes from hosting the Olympics.

The solution: The United States government should formally request that the 2022 Winter Olympics be rescinded from China and hosted in another nation. PyeongChang, South Korea, which hosted the 2018 Winter Olympics, already has the infrastructure in place to hold the games and would be among the most feasible alternatives. Additionally, if the IOC refuses to reconsider its decision, NBC Universal has a moral obligation to reconsider its coverage of the 2022 Olympics and whether it wants to provide a platform to the Chinese Communist Party responsible for a global pandemic and atrocious human rights violations.

9. Stop China's propaganda campaign inside the United States.

The Chinese government is not only waging an aggressive propaganda campaign across the globe, but also here at home in the United States. The Chinese government is funding American schools, universities, non-government organizations (NGOs) and think tanks, often without any public disclosure

or transparency. A bipartisan [report](#) released in 2019 by the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on investigations found, “Schools in the United States— from kindergarten to college—have provided a level of access to the Chinese government that the Chinese government has refused to provide to the United States.”

The solution: Congress should pass a law requiring American schools, universities and NGOs to disclose all contributions and gifts to entities controlled or affiliated with the Chinese government and face fines and penalties if they fail to provide a public disclosure.

10. Hold Chinese government-run media outlets and propaganda proxies accountable and provide transparency to the American people.

The Chinese government has waged an aggressive propaganda campaign, even utilizing Chinese government-controlled media organizations in the United States that create and disseminate anti-America propaganda. Additionally, the Chinese government has routinely placed severe restrictions on American journalists in China and has even expelled and banned journalists from China who have reported on the Chinese government’s cover-up of COVID-19 and atrocious human rights violations.

The solution: The State Department recently reclassified five Chinese government-run media outlets, requiring them to register as foreign agents under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. This is the right decision as these media outlets function as proxies of the Chinese government and should be treated as such. Additionally, the United States should take this one step further by requiring the Federal Communications Commission to run a banner or advisory in all video and audio programming from these outlets with the disclaimer: “Chinese Government Media.”

INVESTIGATE CHINA

11. Convene an investigation into the Chinese government’s cover-up and culpability Investigate the Chinese government’s cover-up of the spread of COVID-19.

The Chinese government knowingly lied to their own citizens and the world by failing to take early action and concealing the severity and spread of COVID-19, repeatedly claiming it could not be spread through human to human transmission and ultimately allowing it to become a global pandemic. The Chinese government is still refusing to be transparent about the origins of the virus and there are now questions whether the source occurred in a wet market in Wuhan or whether it is a naturally-occurring coronavirus that accidentally leaked from a laboratory in Wuhan. Additionally, American news outlets [have reported](#) that the Chinese government successfully pressured the European Union into rewriting a report that was originally critical of China’s response and subsequent cover-up attempt of COVID-19.

The solution: The United States must take the lead in utilizing our intelligence agencies to investigate the origins of COVID-19 and the Chinese government’s role in covering-up information and data about the virus that could have prevented its spread across the world. The United States and the rest of the free world cannot back down – we deserve to know the truth about China’s role in igniting a global pandemic that killed hundreds of thousands of people and caused the global economy to tank.

12. Initiate investigations into America’s reliance on China’s supply chains, a dependency that could threaten the physical and economic health of the American people.

The Chinese government has made it clear they cannot be trusted as a responsible global actor. We cannot afford to endanger the lives of the American people and our national security in the event China decides to cut off their exports to the United States, especially given our nation’s dependency on China for our manufacturing, pharmaceutical supply chain, and materials for our military.

The solution: A vital step to moving manufacturing back home to the United States is identifying weaknesses in our supply chains that have a direct impact on our national security and public health. The United States should initiate a series of investigations to reveal the full extent of the consequences of our continued reliance on China. Congress and the Administration should support the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in investigating the safety of China's pharmaceutical supply chain and the Department of Defense (DoD) in its investigation into the safety of our defense industrial base's reliance on China for materials or manufacturing.


INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

13. **Ensure the independence of the WHO by launching an investigation into the WHO, calling for the resignation of the WHO Director-General, implementing structural reforms, and pushing for Taiwan to gain observer status.**



World Health Organization (WHO) 
@WHO



Preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel [#coronavirus](#) (2019-nCoV) identified in [#Wuhan](#), [#China](#) .

On December 31, 2019, the government of Taiwan warned the WHO about a new virus spreading in China and requested more information from the WHO. Taiwan's inquiry was ignored. Instead, the WHO effectively enabled the Chinese government's cover-up of COVID-19 by parroting their talking points and refusing to request transparency from the Chinese government. The WHO Director-General even went so far as to praise the Chinese government's response as "setting a new standard" and criticize the United States and other countries for banning travel to and from China.

The WHO revealed itself to be partial actors more concerned with staying in favor with the Chinese government than upholding their obligations to provide information to the world to protect public health.

The solution: The WHO needs to be an independent and transparent organization, not a political entity that picks favorites. The WHO Director-General should immediately resign for his poor decision-making, which at best was naively giving China the benefit of the doubt for the beginning, or at worst was actively working with the Chinese government to spread a misinformation campaign to the rest of the world as the virus spread.

The largest contributor to the WHO is American taxpayers, and the United States pays roughly double the contributions as China despite only having a fraction of the population. The United States government should demand an investigation into why the WHO joined China in spreading misinformation and why the WHO failed to demand transparency from the Chinese government.

Additionally, the United States should push for Taiwan to gain observer status at the WHO, especially after Taiwan has demonstrated it is a responsible global actor, unlike the Chinese government which uses the WHO as a political tool.

14. Expose and counter China's lending practices and its predatory debt-trap diplomacy targeting developing countries.

China's predatory lending practices intentionally extend excessive credit to developing countries with the pointed intention of extracting economic and political concessions when the indebted country is unable to honor its obligations. This serves to extend China's strategic extension of power and influence in a direct challenge to American interests and threatens the rules-based world order that respects human rights.

The solution: The United States should increase its ability to invest in infrastructure and development projects abroad as a direct challenge to China's One Belt, One Road Initiative. We need to provide an alternative solution to developing countries to help build goodwill abroad, and keep them aligned with the free world. We cannot allow China to exercise undue influence over Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. Now is the time to lean in and reassure the world that the United States is here to lead.

15. Expand upon the existing 5 Eyes intelligence sharing agreement to share China and pandemic related intelligence and lead in the creation of a health-specific watchdog organization to monitor foreign governments' handling of risky viruses and other pathogens in domestic research labs.

The U.S. intelligence community has concluded that COVID-19 is a naturally-occurring virus that originated in China and left open the possibility that the virus had escaped from a Wuhan laboratory studying into bat-borne viruses linked to multiple epidemics over the past decade. Diplomatic cables obtained by The Washington Post showed U.S. officials were concerned about possible safety breaches at a lab in Wuhan, China, raising the potential lax safety standards caused this international pandemic.

The solution: To prevent other research laboratories from inadvertently releasing harmful viruses capable of causing a dangerous global crisis like COVID-19, the United States should lead the way in establishing an international watchdog organization that develops rigorous safety standards on the proper handling of deadly pathogens and risky genetic material and enforces those standards at domestic labs all over the world. Just as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors and oversees nuclear programs, research labs handling hazardous viruses need strong oversight of their operations.

EXPAND AMERICA'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA TO COUNTER CHINA

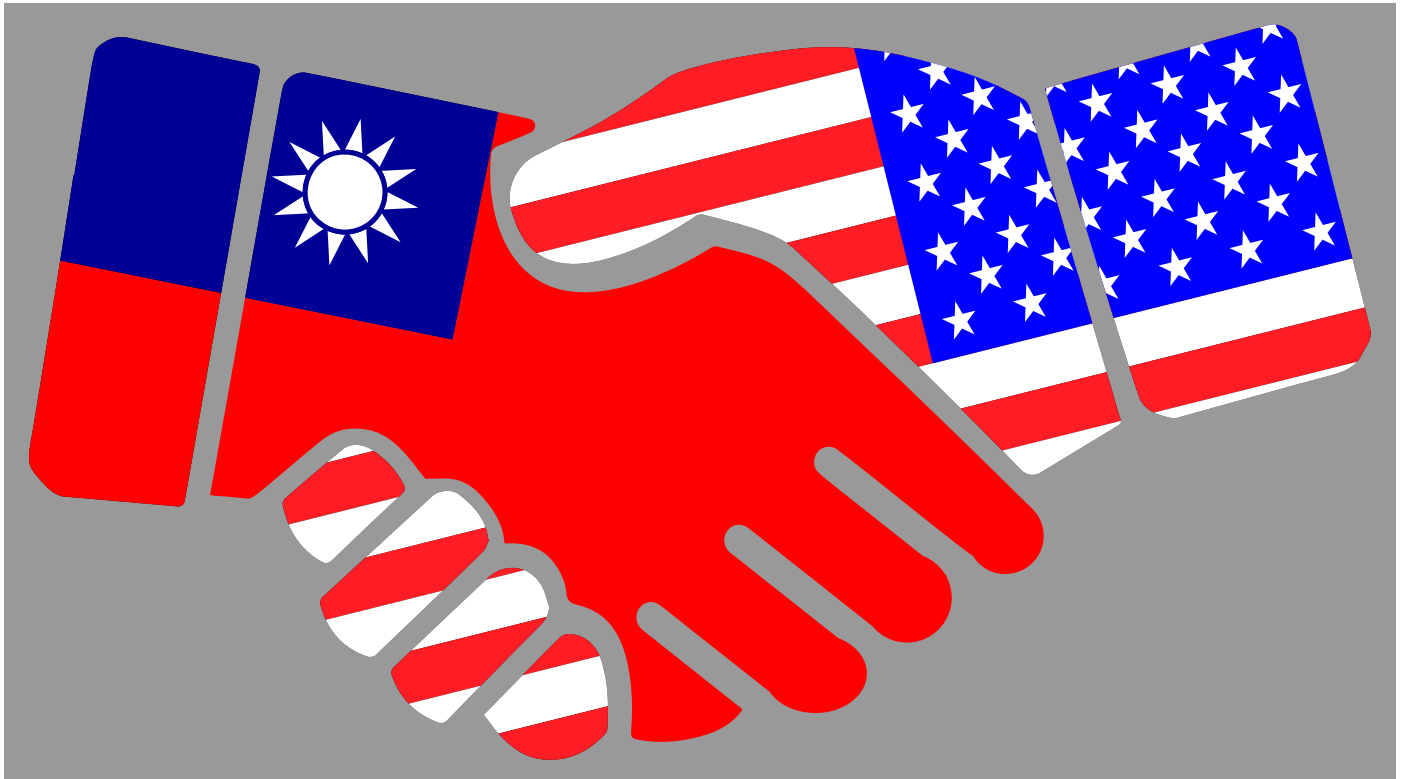
16. Create a Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) and immediately approve the military's request for \$20.1 billion in funding to deter China and improve our military presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Chinese government has taken an increasingly aggressive military posture in the Indo-Pacific region, and the COVID-19 pandemic has raised concerns about the likelihood that China will exploit this global crisis to improve their military standing.

The solution: The United States should create a Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) to deter and contain the military threat posed by China, which is similar to how the United States created the European Deterrence Initiative to counter Russia's military threats following its annexation of Crimea. The Pacific Deterrence Initiative would have the goal of expanding America's military presence in the Indo-Pacific region and improve our training and coordination with our military allies. Additionally, Congress should immediately approve the \$20.1 billion request from our nation's military leaders to support our military in the Indo-Pacific region and deter China. The creation of the PDI, in combination with

a major investment in our nation's military operations in the region, would send a clear signal to the Chinese Communist Party that the United States will not allow China to take advantage of the pandemic and threaten the sovereignty of our allies in the region.

17. Deepen our military ties with regional allies and expand equipment sales to Taiwan, India, and Vietnam.



China views any American incursion into Asia as a check on their regional influence. As the CCP seeks to expand its power across the globe, it is looking to its neighbors to support Chinese interests and abandon United States security relationships to ultimately replace the United States as the world's top superpower.

The solution: The United States must demonstrate we are serious about our commitment to Indo-Pacific regional security. By expanding military sales to India and Vietnam, we foster a stronger relationship with those countries and help build a counter-balance to rising Chinese power. By deepening ties with regional allies like South Korea and Japan, we further shore up our presence in northeast Asia to protect our security and economic interests. Furthermore, by selling arms to Taiwan, we demonstrate support for a democratic, Chinese-alternative to the human-rights abusing CCP. Our support for Taiwan directly undermines China's goals and interests and challenges China's bullying.

We should expand on existing treaty alliances with South Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia and look for new partnerships with emerging powers like India and Vietnam. We should not shy away from conducting military training exercises like the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) in the region, war gaming potential contingencies, increasing inter-operability, fostering deeper cooperation, and demonstrating our resolve.

18. Encourage Japan to revise Article 9 of its Constitution to better counterbalance China in northeast Asia and offer Japan and South Korea sales of offensive military equipment.



Japan's constitution currently limits their ability to take offensive military action. Japan's armed forces can only respond in the instance of an attack, hindering their ability to challenge China and respond to displays of China's aggression.

The solution: Since World War II, Japan and South Korea have both become stable, peaceful and responsible democracies. The current constitutional limits on the Japanese military are antiquated, especially given the rising military threat posed by the Chinese government. The United States should diplomatically urge Japan to revise their constitution to allow for offensive action and sell Japan the necessary offensive equipment to carry it out. This will further demonstrate America's security commitment to the region and deter China from further incursion in the region.