

Testimony of the Hon. Jane Harman  
Before the House Permanent Subcommittee on Intelligence  
April 17, 2024

Good morning. It is always special for me to return to this Committee, where I spent eight years of my nine-term congressional career. My service here overlapped with 9/11, and I am most proud of the fact that we passed, on an overwhelming bipartisan basis, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

Today I hope to identify priorities the committee might consider for the remainder of 2024 in the face of the metastasizing global threats we face. They are listed below:

(1) **War in the Middle East.** Given the latest developments in the expanding war in the Middle East, no one can dispute that intelligence is “the tip of the spear.” This is especially true of U.S. intelligence, which accurately predicted the unprecedented broad-scale attacks Iran launched on Israel with drones and missiles. U.S. intelligence then played a crucial role in intercepting and defeating 99 percent of those missiles and drones. U.S. capabilities were “layered” with those of Israel and other partners, such as the U.K., to prevent loss of life. There was also participation by Jordan and other neighbors of Israel.

(2) **The need for worldwide focus.** The Middle East; Ukraine and Russia; and many other parts of the world demonstrate that the intelligence community must operate with a worldwide focus—even while U.S. defense doctrine identifies China as the “pacing” challenge.

We should take China seriously when it says it could move on Taiwan as early as 2027, but China is a global challenge, and one of many. Given this, we need eyes and ears everywhere.

(3) **Section 702.** At this writing, Section 702 has finally passed the House as a straight two-year extension. Speaker Johnson, in a tie-breaking vote, defeated an effort to impose a crippling amendment requiring individualized warrants. Now the Senate needs to act before Section 702 expires within days. I commend this committee on a bipartisan basis for playing a key role to save this essential surveillance tool, while also making clear that past abuses of its authorities will be corrected.

(4) **Strategic partnership among China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.**

As previously mentioned, China poses our top but by no means only threat, and it is enhancing its ties to countries that also threaten America's interests. This means the intelligence community will have to fundamentally rethink how it does business and eliminate the stovepipes that hinder a fuller picture of these dangerous partnerships. The IC will ultimately have to support policy decisions in this realm that will look much different than they do today.

(5) **Foreign influence.** The IC plays an indispensable role in learning what foreign adversaries are doing to influence and undermine U.S. policy debates, notably on Ukraine, and U.S. elections. The surge in isolationist sentiment among the public can be traced in part to Russian interference. Where possible, Americans should be informed of Russian activities in our political sphere, and declassification can play an important role in this.

Kudos to the IC for using declassification on other matters, including the imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and Iran's intent to launch a retaliatory attack on Israel.

(6) **Bipartisanship.** Finally, I would like to commend this Committee for its continued bipartisanship. It is vitally important to preserve and extend bipartisanship on the intel committees, which are oases in a sea of toxicity. A front-page story in Friday's *Washington Post* talks of how “scorn could rattle spy agencies.” It matters that any future Administration recognize and fully support the crucial importance of robust and unbiased intelligence. This includes nominating the most capable people to lead the IC—as the current Administration has done. Given the threats we face, this is no time for destabilizing actions following the 2024 election. This Committee needs to be vigilant and use its oversight and other leverage to make certain the IC performs at the top of its game.