

**Statement of Hon. Jane Harman
Former Member of Congress
Chair, Commission on the National Defense Strategy
Before the House Select Committee on Intelligence
June 7, 2023**

Good morning.

It is a pleasure to appear before a Committee on which I served for 8 years, 4 as Ranking Member after 9/11. I also commend the current leadership who are pledged to operate in a bipartisan manner in spite of toxic headwinds. As I often said, "the terrorists won't check our party registration before they blow us up." Ditto the Chinese.

You've asked about lessons learned from my long tenure on the Committee.

Probably the most important thing we did after two enormous intelligence failures on 9/11 and on Iraq WMD was to play a key role in drafting and passing IRTPA, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act in 2004. We worked together, and the bill passed by a strong bipartisan vote.

So my first piece of advice is to fight to keep the bipartisan reputation on this committee, and to make certain that the overarching mission is to protect our country, not one's political party.

I applaud the Committee for creating a bipartisan working group to focus on the reauthorization of Section 702 of FISA. It is crucial that this authority for intelligence collection on non-U.S. persons outside the United States – remains in place. This Committee will need to provide the leadership and muscle to get this done, and with whatever reforms are needed to protect privacy rights.

My second recommendation is to make AI a central focus of your work. To do this, you need technical capacity at the staff level without which you will not understand the technology and its rapid advance. Understanding and using AI will be a key to collection, analysis and formulation of intelligence going forward. It will also not be confined to the classified world: it will form a central piece of "open source" information.

My third piece of advice is to focus on China as a "peer competitor," but not to surge all activity on the China threat. The world has become multipolar, and there are many important developments beyond the China challenge, which also must become a part of a broad intelligence lens.

Finally, the IC and Congress should be commended for understanding that declassified intelligence has a huge role to play in deterrence and broader US strategy. The declassification of key intelligence on Ukraine was crucial in preparing the Ukrainians for the fight, for ensuring the world recognized Russian aggression for what it was, and in making sure that Russia knew that we were staying one step ahead.

In conclusion, many of these tasks were different in my years on the committee, but the challenge of terrorism, which is enduring, was enormous too. And the committee rose to that challenge.

So let me be optimistic about what this committee can and must do in the future and offer to be helpful in every way I can.

Thank you for inviting me.