

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Jim Langevin
Before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
June 7, 2023**

Thank you to Chairman Turner, Ranking Member Himes, and all the Members of the Committee for welcoming me to speak today. It is wonderful to see many former colleagues and friends. And I am looking forward to talking about something I care deeply about, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

I served on the HPSCI from 2007 to 2015. HPSCI is a special committee charged with some of the most important work in Congress, though much of that work cannot be discussed publicly. Overseeing the intelligence community and supporting its mission is a privilege that comes with enormous responsibility, because Members of HPSCI are granted unique access to some of the most sensitive and critical activities that our government undertakes. The Committee is at its best when it can operate in a bipartisan or nonpartisan manner. For that reason, I have been pleased to see the tone struck by Chairman Turner and Ranking Member Himes, and their shared commitment to that approach.

As I look back at my service on the Committee, as well as my service on the Armed Services Committee, I thought I might mention a few priorities I hope the Committee will keep in mind.

Emerging technologies have and will continue to fundamentally change the world. Threats to the United States and our allies will become faster, more dispersed, and more dangerous. Artificial intelligence and autonomy, synthetic biology, microelectronics, advanced computing, software, and more all present new threat streams, as well as new opportunities. The Committee must continue to push the intelligence community to confront as well as adapt and leverage these technologies.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning will be particularly impactful. These capabilities have the possibility of advancing very noble goals and pushing humanity forward, particularly when they reflect our democratic values. But they also raise enormous challenges. I am continuously struck by the fact that many of the individuals that have helped develop and scale artificial intelligence are among the staunchest advocates for ensuring it is regulated and used responsibly. This is an area the United States, the Congress, and this committee should seek to lead.

And the impact that artificial intelligence, and the massive amount of data now available, will have on the intelligence community is particularly acute. Artificial intelligence and machine learning could fundamentally change how the intelligence community collects and analyzes data and provides insight to policy makers, but it also presents enormous challenges, many of which are more appropriate for a different setting. But I can say we are in a race with adversaries like China to develop and employ this technology, and the winner will garner a massive, and potentially insurmountable advantage.

At present, however, the Government is not leading the way in many emerging technology areas, and the best technology and most talented people, along with the largest investments, are often in the private sector or academia. The Committee should continue to press the intelligence community to find novel ways to leverage the enormous capability and skills throughout the country, particularly from companies, universities, and organizations that do not have an

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established history of partnering with the government. During my service in Congress, and now in the private sector, I almost daily encounter companies that have incredible technology the national security community needs, but they too often lack a clear pathway to contribute to the nation's defense and the intelligence community's mission.

Likewise, it is a national security imperative to attract and retain a highly skilled and trained workforce. As just one example, there are over 700,000 jobs in cyber security that are unfilled right now. The intelligence community has the best mission in the world, but it must be willing to adapt to attract a new generation with critical skills. I would encourage the Committee to push the intelligence community to identify additional ways to make career progression more flexible for intelligence community employees, create cultures that foster innovation, and develop more robust pathways for university students to serve in the national security community.

In fact, I am creating an Institute on Cyber and Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College. I think this is a great model for bridging the gap between students with critical skills and the national security community, and I will be excited to invite all of you to visit when we are up and running. The institute will expose a diverse group of students to cutting edge technology while helping them develop the skills the nation needs to be successful.

And attracting a diverse group of highly skilled patriotic Americans to the intelligence community is imperative. I can think of few other places where having a diverse workforce is more critical to mission success than the intelligence community, and I encourage the Committee to continue to explore ways to advance this fundamental requirement.

In closing, thank you again for the opportunity to speak today on issues I am so passionate about. I am looking forward to the conversation.