

Hagerty-Gallagher Measure to Stop Communist China from Collecting American DNA for Malign Purposes

Problem

- BGI—a Chinese “national champion” biotechnology company that works closely with China’s military—collects, stores, and analyzes DNA and other genomic information from millions of people in the United States and around the world.
- China’s *National Intelligence Law of 2017* and other laws compel BGI—or any other Chinese company—to disclose to the Chinese government any information that it collects.
- The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) uses BGI as a strategic tool overseas—including in the United States—to acquire or steal foreign technology and to amass the genomic data of American citizens and other foreigners.
- BGI has frequently engaged in research with the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), has used Chinese military supercomputers to analyze sensitive biodata, and has collaborated with Chinese military hospitals to enhance the performance of Chinese soldiers.
- In 2017, the PLA National Defense University (NDU) *Science of Military Strategy* highlighted the importance of “specific ethnic genetic attacks” in future warfare that, NDU military scientists wrote, “can be a precise, targeted attack that destroys a race, or a specific group of people, or a specific person; its potentially huge war effectiveness can bring extreme panic to human beings.”
- BGI is rapidly making inroads in the U.S. market after gaining access to it in 2022 after years of litigation over theft of U.S intellectual property.

Solution

- Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN) seeks to ensure this year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes a provision by Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI) to prohibit the U.S. government from buying biotech equipment from adversarial companies like BGI and its subsidiaries, and from contracting with any firm that buys such biotech equipment.
- This provision will limit efforts by BGI and other adversarial Chinese actors to gain greater access to Americans’ DNA and other genomic information that could be used for malign purposes.