



June 17th, 2026

Ranking Member Kirsten Gillibrand's Opening Statement “Counting the Cost: Communist China's Toll on Older Americans' Health, Finances, and Security”

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate today's hearing. Thank you to our witnesses.

Today's hearing gives the committee the unique opportunity to study several issues that impact the lives of older Americans through the same lens: how are the actions from China influencing these outcomes? We will discuss how the Chinese Government turns a blind eye to scam compounds that target Americans, leading to financial losses to the tune of billions of dollars for our citizens' hard-earned money, not to mention the emotional toll on the victims that they face after falling prey to a scam.

To address this crisis, I've introduced bipartisan legislation with Chairman Scott called the National Strategy for Combating Scams Act, and that would require the FBI to create a unified government-wide strategy to tackle surging scam operations. This bill is a first step to combat scams domestically and complements the work of our colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to crack down on foreign scam centers,

including by pushing to pass the bipartisan Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act.

I'm also eager to continue our discussion on Chinese dominance of the global supply chain for pharmaceuticals and the economic, national, and health security implications of this dominance.

This is a refrain that Chairman Scott and I continue to repeat throughout this entire Congress to help Americans understand. Our health care system is at grave risk, in no small part, due to the exposure to China for key starting materials and active pharmaceutical ingredients for our generic pharmaceuticals.

This is not just a health security issue but a national security issue. In the case of a crisis or conflict between us and China, our country cannot be reliant on China for the bulk of our essential medicines like antibiotics or the ingredients we need to make them. I am proud of the work of this committee that we've done to shed light on the issue. We've introduced bipartisan legislation called the CLEAR LABELS Act, and have dedicated our time to shining a light on this problem that has for too long been pushed aside by Congress.

China has weaponized the supply chain, established choke points in medicine, foundational semiconductors, and printed circuit boards that are critical to all types of electronics.

One of the things that should worry us most and should immediately spark congressional action is China's top to bottom efforts to dominate the next generation of biotechnology. It should be a wakeup call to all of our members that China may surpass us in a few years, not decades, in the critical technology area. Biotech is not a future inflection point, but a present one.

I look forward to collaborating with the commissioners as well as my colleagues across the aisle as we work together to understand and tackle China's influence in all of these spheres.