Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), we urge you to take immediate action to safeguard the security and integrity of your state's governmental systems by banning the use and download of DeepSeek on all government-issued devices.

DeepSeek has raised serious concerns regarding data privacy, cybersecurity risks, and the potential for unauthorized access to sensitive government information by our adversaries. Recent research has revealed that DeepSeek's code is directly linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), with the ability to share user data with China Mobile.[1] China Mobile, owned by the Chinese government and closely tied to the Chinese military, has been banned by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for use in the United States.[2]

By using DeepSeek, users are unknowingly sharing highly sensitive, proprietary information with the CCP — such as contracts, documents, and financial records. In the wrong hands, this data is an enormous asset to the CCP, a known foreign adversary. The CCP has made it abundantly clear that it will exploit any tool at its disposal to undermine our national security, spew harmful disinformation, and collect data on Americans. The U.S. has been a leader in raising concerns on companies tied to the CCP, most notably Huawei and Byte Dance, that pose a direct threat to our national security. Now, we have deeply disturbing evidence that the CCP could use DeepSeek to steal the sensitive data of U.S. citizens.

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the National Security Agency (NSA) and Cyber Subcommittee, we recently introduced the bipartisan No DeepSeek on Government Devices Act.[3] This bipartisan bill would ban the use and download of the device on any federal government devices. Given the increasing sophistication of cyber threats, it is imperative that we

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[1] "DeepSeek coding has the capability to transfer users' data directly to the Chinese government," Good Morning America, February 5, 2025, https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/news/story/deepseek-coding-capability-transfer-users-data-directly-chinese-118465451

[2] "FCC Denies China Mobile Telecom Services Application," Federal Communications Commission, https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-denies-china-mobile-telecom-services-application

[3] "RELEASE: Gottheimer, LaHood Introduce New Bipartisan Legislation to Protect Americans from DeepSeek," February 6, 2025: https://gottheimer.house.gov/posts/release-gottheimer-lahood-introduce-new-bipartisan-legislation-to-protect-americans-from-deepseek

prioritize the safety and security of state-operated devices, especially those that are used to access or store confidential information. We implore you to follow suit and ban the use and download of DeepSeek from all state government affiliated devices and networks. By enacting these bans, you would send a clear message that your state remains committed to maintaining the highest level of security and preventing one of our greatest adversaries from accessing sensitive state, federal, and personal information.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress