



Committee: House Foreign Affairs Committee

Event: [Legislative Markup](#)

Date: January 21, 2026

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, the House Foreign Affairs Committee held a markup of 11 bills, including the AI OVERWATCH Act ([H.R. 6875](#)). The bill would establish a congressional review process for approving chip exports to foreign adversaries and was passed out of committee with bipartisan support on a 42-2-1 vote.

Summary:

- AI OVERWATCH Act
 - Chair **Brian Mast** (R-FL-21) emphasized that advanced AI chips are critical to modern warfare and should not be sold to adversarial countries without congressional review, citing national security risks and the growing AI arms race against China.
 - Ranking Member **Gregory Meeks** (D-NY-14) supported the amendment in the nature of a substitute, arguing it creates strong guardrails and congressional oversight. He criticized the administration's consideration of approving H100 chip sales and framed congressional review as essential to protecting the U.S.'s technological advantage. Meeks praised the inclusion of a temporary ban on Blackwell chip exports.
 - Rep. **Darrell Issa** (R-CA-48) supported advancing the bill but raised concerns that it could push Congress into a regulatory role better suited for the executive branch. He cautioned that retroactive congressional disapproval could create uncertainty for the industry and slow innovation, and suggested that earlier notification to Congress would be a more effective oversight mechanism.
 - Reps. **Michael McCaul** (R-TX-10), **Sydney Kamlager-Dove** (D-CA-37), **Young Kim** (R-CA-40), **Bill Huizenga** (R-MI-04), **Warren Davidson** (R-OH-08), **Tom Kean** (R-NJ-07), and Del. **Jim Moylan** (R-Guam) all spoke in favor of the bill.
 - Rep. **Gabe Amo** (D-RI-01) offered an amendment to stop the sale of chips to foreign adversaries, citing national security concerns.
 - Chair Mast opposed the amendment, arguing that existing provisions in the bill and current administration [rules](#) already impose robust safeguards to prevent chips from being misused.
 - The amendment was not adopted by a vote of 20-25.
 - The bill was passed by a recorded vote.
 - 42-2-1
 - Reps. **Rich McCormick** (R-GA-07) and **Andy Barr** (R-KY-06) opposed the bill.
 - Issa voted present.