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United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA)

Academic Science and Security Provisions



Leslee Gilbert, Vice President Van Scoyoc Associates June 9, 2021

Three Focus Areas

- Overarching Goal of USICA: U.S. Economic and Security Competitiveness in the World, Particularly with Respect to China
- Overarching concern: Information Security/National Security Threats, particularly with respect to China
- Secondary concern: Cultural Primacy/Threats to Freedom, Free Speech

Goals of Legislation

- Targeted Competitiveness with Certain Technologies,
 Closing the "Valley of Death"
- Protection of Supply Chains, Particularly with Respect to Critical Materials
- Cyber Threats, Particularly After Colonial Pipeline

USICA Controls: Personnel

• Controls on Talent Recruitment Programs (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea)

 Proposed Visa Restrictions (SAIA)—allows the government to deny visas

USICA Controls: Gifts/Payments

- Section 117 Expansion of Reporting Threshold
- CFIUS Reporting (Sente Foreign Relations Committee vs. Banking Committee) on Critical Technologies

USICA Controls: Cultural Values/Free Speech

- Confucius Institutes
- Other Broad Free Speech Measures

Outlook for Security Provisions as Legislation Moves Forward

- House Action on NSF/Department of Commerce/Department of Energy
- Timing for the Legislation



Q&A

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- NSF-funded, five-year initiative

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