



October 29, 2024

The Honorable Rand Paul
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
295 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Paul,

As a veteran service organization dedicated to representing the needs and concerns of the special operations community to policy and lawmakers, the Special Operations Association of America strongly supports S.3558, the “Prohibiting Foreign Access to American Genetic Information Act of 2024.” This critical legislation addresses adversarial nations’ exploitation of U.S. biotechnology supply chains and compromises U.S. national security.

By prohibiting government contracts with biotechnology companies of concern, S.3558 stands as a significant safeguard against the involvement of foreign adversaries in sensitive technological sectors. As Special Operations veterans, many of us have directly witnessed the impact of compromised supply chains. Today, attempts by state and non-state actors to infiltrate every facet of American life to subvert or sabotage our ability to defend the security of our nation is ubiquitous. The risk of critical data being exploited to the detriment of our national security is real and growing, as an increasing number of biotechnology companies with ties to foreign adversaries present new and alarming vulnerabilities.

S.3558, “Prohibiting Foreign Access to American Genetic Information Act of 2024,” would enhance our ability to prevent exploitation; protect the integrity of technological advances and intellectual property; and mitigate these risks by establishing appropriate safeguards to protect U.S. citizens, including military personnel and their families. Furthermore, the Act’s framework for assessing and monitoring the activities of biotechnology companies is essential. The provision for regularly updating the list of biotechnology companies of concern ensures that the U.S. government can respond dynamically to changing risks, while still prioritizing national security.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to the safety and security of the United States. We urge you to swiftly pass and implement the Prohibiting Foreign Access to American Genetic Information Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

David Cook
Executive Director
Special Operations Association of America