

Dear Senators: TikTok is a Chinese weapon and it's time to divest it from CCP control.

JOIN US AS WE STAND STAUNCHLY IN SUPPORT of the TikTok Divestiture Bill, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act. TikTok is an A.I. weapon of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and is the most potent foreign espionage and propaganda assault ever directed against the United States. Neither we personally nor Khosla Ventures nor Palantir, stand to gain or lose anything on the back of this bill's outcome. We write this letter as private citizens out of love for the United States.

THIS IS ABOUT A FOREIGN ADVERSARY OWNING A WEAPON OF WAR. COGNITIVE WARFARE IS A NEW THEATER OF WAR IN THE 21st CENTURY. The CCP is likely using TikTok to push its agenda, attack its opponents – Republicans or Democrats alike – and harvest our data to spy on our journalists, judges, and politicians, and train even more advanced A.I. models. Would you let North Korea or Iran own a broadcast channel that 67% of teens spend almost two hours a day on? Traditional weapons are no longer the only instruments of political warfare. The CCP is deploying technologies that spread narratives and ideas with viral coefficients and enable panoptic state surveillance powered by advanced models. This is a theater of war pervasive in today's world.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT DATA PRIVACY. Privacy safeguards at the federal level, though useful for other reasons, will not solve this problem more effectively than the existing California Consumer Privacy Act already encoded in state law. TikTok is entirely controlled by ByteDance which obediently follows China's censorship and surveillance laws and completely ignores ours. Beijing can command ByteDance to use TikTok however it sees fit—that is their law.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT A BAN. The TikTok Bill forces the divestiture of TikTok and removes the CCP's control over the App. If the CCP is unwilling to sell TikTok at any price and **FORCES A BAN OVER A SALE**, this tells you what you need to know: **TIKTOK IS A "KEY POLITICAL ASSET,"** not a commercial enterprise.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT FREE SPEECH.

Opponents of the Bill in Congress, like the CCP, are cynically using the First Amendment as a talking point. **TIKTOK IS NOT A "PUBLIC SQUARE" OR A "FREE SPEECH PLATFORM."** It shadow bans and censors any person or topic deemed problematic by the CCP. Try searching for **#UyghurGenocide** or **#HongKongProtest**. Is this free speech or proof of CCP control? If you're a TikTok shareholder, you're censored from saying anything critical of the company for fear of seeing your shares seized—is this free speech or proof of CCP control? For decades, we've restricted the foreign ownership of traditional media stations for a reason. The proposed legislation narrowly focuses on the company's conduct, not the speech of its users; it targets TikTok's corporate ownership structure, not the content of its platform. If you care about free speech, you should support this bill.

THE CCP BANS EVERY SINGLE AMERICAN CONTENT PLATFORM IN CHINA.

America never responded in kind, although a legitimate argument could be made for requiring **TRADE RECIPROCITY**. The TikTok Bill will allow TikTok to continue operating in the U.S. if it divests from CCP control.

THERE IS A REASON TIKTOK IS BANNED

IN CHINA. Chinese consumers use Douyin, the sister app developed by TikTok's parent, which promotes patriotic and educational videos. Douyin is limited to 40 minutes per day of total usage. TikTok is a programmable fentanyl whose effects are under the control of the Chinese authorities. **SPINACH FOR CHINESE KIDS, FENTANYL FOR OURS.**

It's time to get this bill on the floor. Join us.

Jacob S. Helberg

Author,
Senior Advisor to Palantir CEO,
Serving as USCC Commissioner
X: @jacobhelberg



Vinod Khosla

Founder, Khosla Ventures
& Lifelong Technologist
X: @vkhosla

