

13 March 2025

Hearing on SB 234, “Prohibiting the use of foreign adversary genetic sequencers and software”

Proponent

Testimony from Michael Lucci, State Armor Action
Kansas Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee, my name is Michael Lucci, and I am the founder and CEO of State Armor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation to protect Kansan genomic data from foreign adversaries.

Beijing Genomics (BGI) and its affiliates are sanctioned by the Dept. of Defense¹ for working with China’s military, and by the Dept. of Commerce for human rights abuses.² China has built the world’s largest gene bank under BGI, which they seek to leverage for military and commercial purposes. As detailed in a letter I submitted to the committee, China is pursuing dominance in the field of biotechnology for both military and commercial purposes, and they are far along in executing on their strategy to make the world dependent upon their genomic technology.

Any genetic data collected by BGI is effectively property of Beijing and used for surveillance and military purposes under China’s 2017 National Intelligence Law.³ Massive amounts of genetic information will provide China the inside track for creating pharmaceutical solutions and bioweapons.

Senior PLA officials have argued in favor of creating genetically-targeted bioweapons that can incapacitate individuals based upon ethnicity. BGI is blacklisted for working with the PLA, and the PLA has discussed heinous plans for bioweapons.

General Zhang Shibo, for instance, held the highest rank in the PLA and was President of the PLA's National Defense University for developing PLA doctrine and training senior officers. The

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/07/2025-00070/notice-of-availability-of-designation-of-chinese-military-companies>

² [https://www.wsgr.com/en/insights/united-states-imposes-export-restrictions-on-beijing-genomics-institute-bgi-group-subsidiaries-over-national-security-concerns.html#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20Department%20of%20Commerce's,Genomics%20Institute%20\(BGI\)%20Group.](https://www.wsgr.com/en/insights/united-states-imposes-export-restrictions-on-beijing-genomics-institute-bgi-group-subsidiaries-over-national-security-concerns.html#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20Department%20of%20Commerce's,Genomics%20Institute%20(BGI)%20Group.)

³ <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/statement-national-security-advisor-robert-c-obrien-011521-2/>

year before his retirement in 2017, he published a book called *The New High Ground of War* that includes this judgment:

*In the development of biotechnology today, the most lethal weapons are genetically engineered weapons, designed to attack people based on their specific ethnic or racial background, causing specific races to become ill, such as suffering immune deficiency, loss of intelligence, sterilization, or even death, while leaving other races unscathed.*⁴

While the Chinese Communist Party's advances in artificial intelligence and other technologies make the news, Beijing's efforts to dominate biotechnology constitute an under the radar threat to Americans. The Director of National Intelligence in its annual threat assessment explained that biotechnology is part of China's whole-of-government effort to "become a world [science and technology] superpower and to use this technological superiority for economic, political, and military gain."⁵

States must cut off blacklisted CCP military companies from all genetic data. The only way to do that is to block these sanctioned devices in the State of Kansas. It is reasonable to prevent BGI from gaining market share before they make further inroads into the U.S. The intelligence assessments warn that "China now rivals the United States in DNA-sequencing equipment" and that "Beijing's large volume of genetic data potentially positions it to lead in precision medicine and agricultural biotechnology applications."⁶

While the federal government, including the Executive and Legislative branches, have been focused on the biotechnology threat from the Chinese Communist Party, they have not solved the problem. State level action is essential to stopping the CCP's efforts to collect genomic information and create the world's dominant biotechnology sector for both commercial and military uses.

⁴ Zhang Shibo, *The New High Ground of War* (Beijing: PLA National Defense University Press, 2016),

⁵ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, "Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community," February 5, 2024. (<https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ATA-2024-Unclassified-Report.pdf>)

⁶ *ibid*