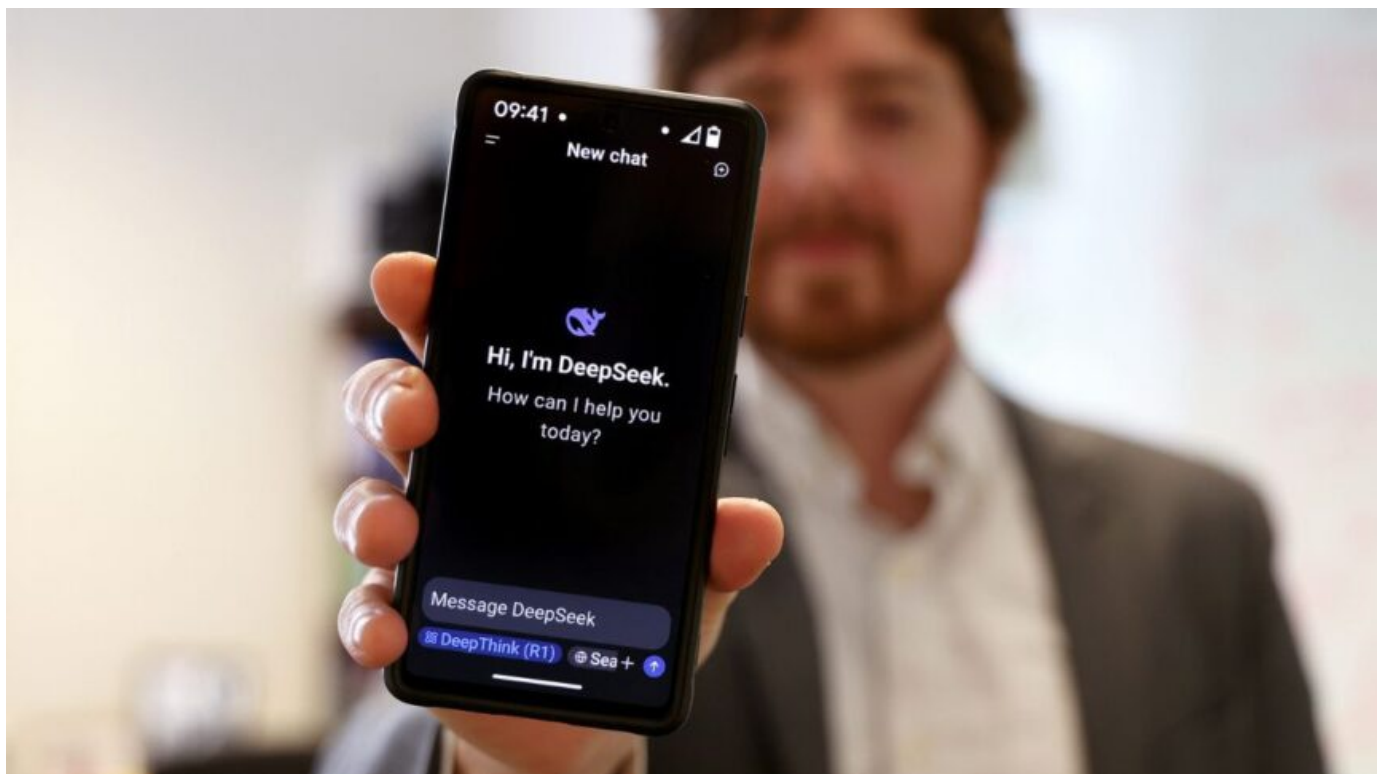


Downloading DeepSeek Could Lead to 20 Years in Prison Under New US Bill



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Aizaz Khan



A newly introduced bill by Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) has sparked major debate over its strict measures against Chinese artificial intelligence (AI), specifically targeting technologies like DeepSeek. The bill, filed last week, seeks to “prohibit United States persons from advancing artificial intelligence capabilities within the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.”

If passed, the legislation could effectively ban the use of DeepSeek, a rapidly emerging Chinese AI competitor, in the United States. Experts warn that the bill could have far-reaching consequences for the global AI landscape and U.S.-China technological relations.

Hawley’s bill proposes severe restrictions on Chinese AI imports and the use of Chinese-developed AI technologies within the U.S. The penalties are harsh: individuals found violating the law could face up to 20 years in prison, while companies could be fined up to \$100 million. Harvard AI research fellow Ben Brooks described the bill as “easily the most aggressive legislative action on AI” to date. While some lawmakers argue the bill is necessary for national security, others fear it could stifle technological innovation and escalate tensions between the U.S. and China.

DeepSeek’s rapid development has alarmed U.S. lawmakers. The Chinese AI model recently demonstrated capabilities on par with top-tier U.S. AI chatbots while using significantly fewer resources. This efficiency has raised concerns in Washington that American tech firms may be overspending on AI development while China advances more cost-effective solutions.



DeepSeek's success has also rattled financial markets. Last week, a \$1 trillion stock market selloff occurred, partially attributed to fears over China's AI dominance. Companies like Nvidia, a key supplier of AI chips, have faced uncertainty regarding their role in future AI development.

According to The Washington Post, Hawley and other lawmakers argue that banning Chinese AI imports will protect both national security and U.S. economic interests. In a joint statement with Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Hawley criticized the Biden administration for not acting swiftly enough to impose AI-related restrictions.

"Multiple administrations have failed — at the behest of corporate interests — to update and enforce our export controls in a timely manner," the senators wrote. "We cannot let that continue."

Their concerns are echoed by national security experts, who fear that allowing Chinese AI technology into the U.S. could lead to risks similar to those raised in the TikTok debate. Although Congress passed a TikTok ban last year, enforcement remains uncertain, particularly after former President Donald Trump reversed his position on the issue.



Why are we allowing American tech giants like Microsoft to help China develop DeepSeek and other AI? It's insane. We should ban the transfer of AI technology to China immediately



From foxnews.com

As one of the world's largest AI chipmakers, Nvidia has become a central figure in the debate over AI regulation. The company recently suffered the largest one-day stock loss in history as uncertainty over Chinese AI policy rattled investors.

Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, met with former President Trump last Friday to discuss the future of AI and U.S. technology leadership. While details of the meeting remain unclear said Reuters, Trump described it as a "good meeting" but refrained from making any commitments. Reports also suggest that despite U.S. export restrictions, China may have acquired restricted Nvidia chips through Singapore. Financial analysts at The Kobeissi Letter posted X thread pointed out that Nvidia reported \$17.4 billion in revenue from Singapore, compared to \$11.6

billion from China, raising suspicions that Chinese companies might be bypassing trade restrictions. “A whopping \$17.4 BILLION of Nvidia’s revenue came from Singapore versus \$11.6 billion from China. Singapore has 99 data centers, not even enough to make the top 20 list. So, where are all of these GPUs going then?” the analysts questioned, predicting that the US could sue Nvidia for supplying China’s market through Singapore. While U.S. lawmakers push for stricter regulations, some experts believe the U.S. still maintains an advantage in AI development. Jeffrey Ding, an AI policy expert at George Washington University, argues that the U.S. leads in AI adoption and military applications.

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(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION.—On and after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the importation into the United States of artificial intelligence or generative artificial intelligence tech-



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nology or intellectual property developed or produced in the People’s Republic of China is prohibited.

“The U.S. has a pretty durable lead in this technology, not just in its ability to adopt it throughout the entire economy at scale, but also in its ability to mobilize civilian resources for military advantage,” Ding said during a recent panel discussion at Johns Hopkins University. However, others warn that China’s AI research ecosystem is growing rapidly. YouTuber and China tech analyst Cyrus Janssen highlighted that eight of the world’s top ten AI research institutions are based in China, with only Harvard and MIT representing the U.S. He cautioned that dismissing China’s AI capabilities would be a mistake. As the debate over AI restrictions intensifies, the future of Senator Hawley’s bill remains uncertain. While the legislation was quickly tabled, often a sign that it lacks immediate support, its introduction signals that AI policy will be a key issue in Congress moving forward. Whether or not a formal ban on DeepSeek materializes, the bill’s introduction shows growing tensions between the U.S. and China over AI leadership. With Chinese companies rapidly advancing in AI development, Washington faces increasing pressure to establish clear policies on AI trade, security, and competition.

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