

Combating PRC Overseas and Unlawful Networked Threats through Enhanced Resilience (COUNTER) Act of 2025

Problem: The expansion of PRC military bases globally poses a direct threat to U.S. interests.

- The People's Republic of China (PRC) is actively working to expand its network of overseas military bases in order to project power and increase its global influence. However, the U.S. government does not have a clearly defined or coordinated strategy to forestall the establishment of new PRC bases in countries central to U.S. economic and national security.

Solution: *The COUNTER Act of 2025*

- This bill would require a comprehensive intelligence assessment to analyze the status of PRC basing efforts overseas; mandate an interagency strategy to address current and future PRC basing locations of concern; and create an interagency task force to focus on this problem.

Summary:

Section 1 – Short Title

- Names the bill the “Combating PRC Overseas and Unlawful Networked Threats through Enhanced Resilience Act of 2025” or the “COUNTER Act of 2025.”

Section 2 – Findings

- Summarizes the challenges associated with the PRC's global basing intentions and highlights the risk to U.S. interests.

Section 3 – Sense of Congress

- Outlines the need to improve strategic responses to PRC basing with urgency, interagency coordination, and proactive U.S. government engagement.

Section 4 - Definitions

- Identifies appropriate congressional committees as SFRC, SASC, SSCI, SAC, HFAC, HASC, HPSCI, and HAC.

Section 5 - Assessment of Executive Branch Counter-PRC Basing Strategy

- Requires an assessment from the Director of National Intelligence analyzing the risk of PRC global basing to the U.S and allied ability to project power and sustain freedom of movement.
- Requires a strategy from the State Department and DOD identifying no less than five current or future PRC basing locations of chief concern; a comprehensive list of U.S. government activity aimed at addressing PRC global basing in each of the locations; an identification of resource or personnel constraints limiting the U.S. response; and an identification of the most effective practices to persuade foreign governments to terminate plans for hosting a PRC base in their territory.
- Establishes an interagency task force to counter the PRC's global basing expansion and prevent the establishment of new locations.
- Requires a report every four years on updates to PRC basing intentions and subsequent updates to U.S. strategy.