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U.S. Senators Target China with New Bills on Security and Human Rights

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In a rare show of bipartisan resolve, U.S. senators from both parties are set to unveil three bills this week aimed at confronting China's actions on human rights, Taiwan, and global dissident harassment, *Reuters* revealed in its latest report. The move comes as President Donald Trump prioritizes trade negotiations with Beijing, raising concerns among some lawmakers that security and ethical priorities are being sidelined.

The legislation, reviewed exclusively by our team, reflects a growing consensus in Congress that China's global influence demands a firm response. While Trump's trade agenda enjoys broad Republican backing, it has sparked unease among China hawks who fear economic deals may soften America's stance on Beijing's aggression. "President Trump seems eager to strike a trade deal with China, but this risks creating a disconnect with Congress and even some of his advisors, who take a harder line," said Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the German Marshall Fund, in an interview with *Reuters*.

The first bill, co-sponsored by Republican John Cornyn of Texas, targets Chinese officials involved in the forced repatriation of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang. Human rights organizations have documented extensive abuses against the roughly 10 million Uyghurs in the region, including mass surveillance and internment. Beijing denies these claims, but the bill would bar implicated officials from entering the U.S., signaling a direct challenge to China's narrative.

The second bill, backed by Republican John Curtis of Utah, focuses on bolstering Taiwan's position amid escalating Chinese pressure. It proposes support for Latin American and Caribbean nations that maintain diplomatic ties with Taipei and strengthens U.S.-Taiwan coordination. China, which views Taiwan as its territory and has intensified military posturing, will likely see this as a provocative move.

The third bill, led by Republican Dan Sullivan of Alaska, addresses “transnational repression,” where foreign governments intimidate or harm dissidents abroad. This legislation aims to counter China's reported efforts to silence journalists, activists, and others beyond its borders. “America must stand firm against the People's Republic of China's global aggression,” said Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, a co-sponsor of all three bills, in a statement. “Our values of freedom and human rights must guide our leadership, no matter who occupies the White House.”

As these bills emerge, Trump's trade talks with China face a critical juncture. Top U.S. and Chinese officials are meeting in Stockholm to address ongoing disputes, with an August 12 deadline looming to avoid steep tariff hikes. Trump's focus on opening markets, a hallmark of his economic policy, has drawn criticism from some quarters. “His priority is trade access, but that can clash with national security needs,” said Michael Sobolik, a U.S.-China relations expert at the Hudson Institute, in a separate interview.

Adding to the tension, Nvidia's recent decision to resume sales of its H20 AI chips to China, following a meeting between its CEO and Trump, has alarmed both Democrats and some Republicans. The move reverses an earlier restriction meant to keep advanced AI technology out of Chinese hands, raising questions about the balance between commerce and security.

Congress's bipartisan push signals a determination to hold China accountable, even as trade negotiations dominate headlines. With these bills, lawmakers are carving out a distinct path, one that prioritizes America's strategic interests and moral clarity over economic expediency.