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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All State Agency Heads

FROM: Governor Kay Ivey *KI*

DATE: March 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Protecting Alabama from Chinese Infiltration by Prohibiting the Use of DeepSeek, Manus, and Similar Harmful Technologies on State IT Infrastructure

Yesterday, my GenAI Task Force released a final report which, among other things, included recommendations to address the risks associated with generative artificial intelligence.

Today, consistent with that recommendation, I am announcing new policies implemented by the Secretary of Information Technology to ban from the state IT network and state IT devices the AI platforms known as DeepSeek and Manus. Because of their affiliation with the Chinese government and their vast data-collection capabilities, these platforms pose unacceptable risks to the State of Alabama and its citizens in terms of data privacy and cybersecurity. These platforms also raise serious concerns about Chinese censorship and propaganda. The new policies are attached (see pg. 5 of the attachment, "Least Functionality | Unauthorized Software"), and state executive-branch agencies should immediately take all necessary steps to comply with them.

In addition, the new policies contain a general framework for identifying and blocking other harmful software programs and websites—even while recognizing exceptions for law enforcement and other essential government functions. A particular focus will be on protecting state IT infrastructure from each of the nations our Legislature has designated as a "foreign country of concern"—specifically, China (but not Taiwan), Iran, North Korea, and Russia. Going forward, state executive-branch agencies should work cooperatively with the Office of Information Technology to implement this framework as well.

Alabama's IT infrastructure houses significant amounts of Alabamians' sensitive data and drives countless automated government functions supporting our economy, our schools, public safety, emergency response, and more. For these reasons, we must always be vigilant in protecting it.

Thank you for all you do to ensure the success and safety of our great State. Together, we will defend the State of Alabama and its people from the growing security risk posed by DeepSeek, Manus, and similar harmful technologies.