



**HEARSEY FOR CONGRESS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Gaithersburg, MD:** Chris Hearsey, Congressional candidate for MD-6, expresses outrage and concern over reports that the Trump Administration plans to end the International Space Station program in 2025; announcement appears imminent.

**“For over sixty years, the United States has been a leader in spaceflight,”** says former aerospace executive Chris Hearsey. **“American ingenuity and innovation propelled us to great heights from the Earth to the Moon, Mars, and beyond our solar system. For twenty years, NASA and its international partners have built and operated the International Space Station (ISS) as the preeminent research facility that continues to yield tremendous results and benefits related to the effects of microgravity and radiation on human physiology and the technology we use for exploration and manufacturing.”**

**“However,”** Hearsey says, **“when the George W. Bush Administration canceled the Space Shuttle program before a follow-on rocket could be built, it cost America thousands of jobs and forced NASA to buy access to the ISS from the Russians, which undermined American leadership in space exploration. I believe that President Trump has played enough Russian Roulette with our democracy and global leadership, and, now, with our space program – this is unacceptable. Congress and the American people should not tolerate ending the International Space Station without a plan for its replacement. We must have a plan to maintain US space leadership and diplomacy. Otherwise, Americans will have spent a great deal of taxpayer dollars only to see a Chinese space station in the sky while we wait for another President to restore our technological leadership in space.”**

The American portion of the ISS currently hosts the United States’ National Lab in space, which conducts research on material science, antimicrobial resistance, crop growth in microgravity, and more. The ISS is a multinational project undertaken by the space agencies of the United States, Russia, Japan,

China, and the European Space Agency. Its first module was launched in 1998, and the station could feasibly be used until 2028. To date, over 100 astronauts have lived on the ISS, and the ISS has been continually occupied since 2000.

To learn more about Chris' position on science and technology policy, go to [HearseyForCongress.com](http://HearseyForCongress.com).

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