

Floor Remarks of Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Chairman
Education and Workforce Committee

H.R. 1049, the *Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions
to Education (TRACE) Act*
December 3, 2025

(As prepared for delivery)

We need greater transparency in American education. In recent years, foreign governments have increasingly sought to influence our K-12 schools—not for their stated purpose of cultural exchanges or diplomacy, but to push propaganda.

The Chinese Communist Party, for example, has spent untold sums across hundreds of schools to indoctrinate or influence thousands of children. These so-called “little red classrooms” were sold as opportunities to teach Chinese language and culture, but in reality, they require teachers to omit discussion of human rights abuses, present the CCP in a positive light, and rabidly celebrate the regime. Students in these classrooms rarely learn about events such as the Tiananmen Square Massacre or the ongoing genocide of Uyghur Muslims. Students don’t learn about these despicable crimes because the CCP doesn’t want them to.

This one-sided approach extends beyond K-12 classrooms. While the CCP operates programs in U.S. schools, American educators are not allowed to expose Chinese students to American culture. The goal is clear: the Chinese Communist Party wants to control information and

shape young minds. Over nearly two decades, the CCP has demonstrated a persistent effort to influence the minds of our children.

According to a 2020 State Department report, many of these classrooms are funded and operated, in part, by the CCP's United Front Work Department, a known overseas propaganda and influence operation. Foreign interference in our schools threatens not only student learning but also our national security.

H.R. 1049, the *Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education (TRACE) Act*, by Rep. Aaron Bean and Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, addresses this problem by giving parents the right to review course materials funded or provided by foreign governments and entities of concern. Students perform better when parents are involved in their education. Yet, in recent years, parents have often been silenced or forced to navigate bureaucratic hurdles just to understand what their children are learning.

The TRACE Act ensures transparency, strengthens parental rights, and protects students from foreign indoctrination. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and defend the role of families in safeguarding our children's education.

Thank you, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Closing

H.R. 1049, the TRACE Act, sends a clear message: parents have a right to know what their children are learning, ESPECIALLY when curricula are funded by authoritarian regimes.

Foreign influence in classrooms not only undermines our cherished American values but also our national security. The TRACE Act allows parents to review foreign-funded materials and raise concerns when

needed. Concerned parents should not be labeled as “terrorists” or treated like criminals when they stand up for their children. By empowering parents, we strengthen student outcomes and protect our schools.

I urge my colleagues to support the TRACE Act and stand with families in defending the integrity of American education from foreign tyranny.

Thank you, and I yield back.