



February 12, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman, Committee on Education and Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on Education and Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott,

I am writing on behalf of Heritage Action's 2.5 million grassroots activists to express our strong support for the Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT) Act (H.R.1048). [Countering the influence of the Chinese Communist Party \(CCP\)](#) should be a top priority this Congress and we are encouraged to see early activity in the House Education and Workforce Committee.

Students trained in American universities shape science, technology, and culture both at home and abroad. While the current foreign gift reporting requirement is a good start, the \$250,000 threshold has proven [ineffective and is often ignored](#). For instance, nearly 70% of funding the Chinese government sent to American Universities for Confucius Institutes went unreported.

Since 1981, American colleges have officially declared over \$40 billion in foreign gifts, grants, research funds, and more. Given the underreporting issues, the true number is likely even higher. These funds enable foreign actors, particularly the CCP, to gain leverage over American institutions, and has facilitated economic espionage on an industrial scale.

The strategic approach used by the CCP, disguising kickbacks through various front initiatives, allows them to outmaneuver the current provisions of the Higher Education Act. The DETERRENT Act would further modernize our reporting requirements and enforcement, effectively curtailing the inroads made by China and other foreign entities of concern into our educational system.

Given the critical and bipartisan nature of protecting our institutions from foreign influence, we urge the House Education and Workforce Committee to prioritize passing H.R.1048.

Ryan Walker
Executive Vice President
Heritage Action for America