

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1535

To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to limit the exemption from the registration requirements of such Act for persons engaging in activities in furtherance of bona fide religious, scholastic, academic, or scientific pursuits or the fine arts to activities which do not promote the political agenda of a foreign government, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to clarify the disclosures of foreign gifts by institutions, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. GUEST, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MAST, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. DUNN, Mr. BROOKS, and Mr. FITZGERALD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to limit the exemption from the registration requirements of such Act for persons engaging in activities in furtherance of bona fide religious, scholastic, academic, or scientific pursuits or the fine arts to activities which do not promote the political agenda of a foreign government,

to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to clarify the disclosures of foreign gifts by institutions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Influence  
5 Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITING EXEMPTION FROM FOREIGN AGENT REG-**  
7 **ISTRATION REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONS EN-**  
8 **GAGING IN ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF**  
9 **CERTAIN PURSUITS TO ACTIVITIES NOT PRO-**  
10 **MOTING POLITICAL AGENDA OF FOREIGN**  
11 **GOVERNMENTS.**

12 (a) LIMITATION ON EXEMPTION.—Section 3(e) of the  
13 Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C.  
14 613(e)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end  
15 and inserting the following: “, but only if the activities  
16 do not promote the political agenda of a government of  
17 a foreign country;”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
19 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to activities carried  
20 out on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. DISCLOSURES OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND AGREE-**  
2 **MENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the Higher Edu-  
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f) is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by adding “**AND**  
6 **AGREEMENTS**” at the end;

7 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “\$250,000”  
8 and inserting “\$50,000”;

9 (3) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence,  
11 by inserting before the period at the end the  
12 following: “, including the content of each such  
13 contract”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before  
15 the period the following: “, including the con-  
16 tent of each such contract”;

17 (4) in subsection (e), by inserting “, including  
18 the contents of any contracts,” after “reports”;

19 (5) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g),  
20 and (h) as subsections (f), (g), (h), and (i), respec-  
21 tively;

22 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(e) CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AGREEMENTS.—

25 “(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the  
26 term ‘Confucius Institute’ means a cultural institute

1 directly or indirectly funded by the Government of  
2 the People’s Republic of China.

3 “(2) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT.—Any institu-  
4 tion that has entered into an agreement with a Con-  
5 fucius Institute shall immediately make the full text  
6 of such agreement available—

7 “(A) on the publicly accessible website of  
8 the institution;

9 “(B) to the Department of Education;

10 “(C) to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
11 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

12 “(D) to the Committee on Education and  
13 Labor of the House of Representatives.”; and

14 (7) in subsection (i), as redesignated—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), by amending sub-  
16 paragraph (A) to read as follows:

17 “(A) a foreign government, including—

18 “(i) any agency of a foreign govern-  
19 ment, and any other unit of foreign gov-  
20 ernmental authority, including any foreign  
21 national, State, local, and municipal gov-  
22 ernment;

23 “(ii) any international or multi-  
24 national organization whose membership is

1 composed of any unit of foreign govern-  
2 ment described in clause (i); and

3 “(iii) any agent or representative of  
4 any such unit or such organization, while  
5 acting as such;”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting before  
7 the semicolon at the end the following: “, or the  
8 fair market value of an in-kind gift”.

9 (b) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH DISCLOSURE  
10 REQUIREMENT.—Any institution of higher education (as  
11 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of  
12 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that is not in compliance with  
13 the disclosure requirements set forth in section 117 of  
14 such Act (20 U.S.C. 1011f) shall be ineligible to enroll  
15 foreign students under the Student and Exchange Visitor  
16 Program.

17 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
18 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to gifts received  
19 or contracts or agreements entered into, or other activities  
20 carried out, on or after the date of the enactment of this  
21 Act.

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