117TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 7150

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen oversight and disclosures relating to foreign support for institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 18, 2022

Mr. Banks introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, and Energy and Commerce, 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

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen oversight and disclosures relating to foreign support for institutions of higher education, 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. DISCLOSURES OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND CON-
- 4 TRACTS.
- 5 (a) In General.—Section 117 of the Higher Edu-
- 6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f) is amended to read
- 7 as follows:

1	"SEC. 117. DISCLOSURES OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND CON-
2	TRACTS.
3	"(a) Disclosures.—
4	"(1) Aggregate gifts and contracts.—
5	"(A) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—Except as
6	provided in subsection (b), whenever an institu-
7	tion receives a gift from or enters into a con-
8	tract with a foreign source, the value of which
9	is \$50,000 or more, considered alone or in com-
10	bination with all other gifts from or contracts
11	with that foreign source within a calendar year
12	the institution shall file a disclosure report with
13	the Office for Foreign Gifts and Contracts
14	Oversight on January 31 or July 31, whichever
15	is sooner.
16	"(B) Contents of disclosure.—Each
17	report under subparagraph (A) shall include the
18	following:
19	"(i) For gifts received from or con-
20	tracts entered into with a foreign govern-
21	ment, the aggregate amount of such gifts
22	and contracts received from each foreign
23	government, including the content of each
24	such contract.
25	"(ii) For gifts received from or con-
26	tracts entered into with a foreign source

1	other than a foreign government, the ag-
2	gregate dollar amount of such gifts and
3	contracts attributable to a particular coun-
4	try, the legal or formal name of the foreign
5	sources, and the content of each such con-
6	tract.
7	"(C) Attribution.—For purposes of sub-
8	paragraph (B)(ii), the country to which a gift
9	or contract is attributable is—
10	"(i) in the case of a gift from or con-
11	tract entered into with a foreign source
12	who is a natural person, that person's
13	country of citizenship, or if unknown, that
14	person's principal country residence; or
15	"(ii) in the case of a gift from or con-
16	tract entered into with a foreign source
17	which is a legal entity, the entity's prin-
18	cipal place of business or, if unknown, the
19	entity's country of incorporation.
20	"(2) Gifts or contracts with undeter-
21	MINED MONETARY VALUE.—
22	"(A) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—Except as
23	provided in subsection (b), whenever an institu-
24	tion receives a gift from or enters into a con-
25	tract with a foreign source the value of which

1	is not readily ascertainable, the institution shall
2	file a disclosure report with the Office for For-
3	eign Gifts and Contracts Oversight on January
4	31 or July 31, whichever is sooner.
5	"(B) CONTENTS OF DISCLOSURE.—Each
6	report under subparagraph (A) shall include the
7	information described in paragraph (1)(B).
8	"(3) Ownership or control by foreign
9	SOURCE.—
10	"(A) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—Whenever
11	an institution is owned or controlled by a for-
12	eign source the institution shall file a disclosure
13	report with the Office for Foreign Gifts and
14	Contracts Oversight on January 31 or July 31,
15	whichever is sooner.
16	"(B) Contents of disclosure.—Each
17	report under subparagraph (A) shall include the
18	following:
19	"(i) the information described in para-
20	graph (1)(B) (without regard to any gift or
21	contract threshold described in paragraph
22	(1)(A));
23	"(ii) the identity of the foreign source
24	that owns or controls the institution;

1	"(iii) the date on which the foreign
2	source assumed ownership or control; and
3	"(iv) any changes in the programs or
4	organizational structure of the institution
5	resulting from the change in ownership or
6	control.
7	"(4) Restricted and conditional gifts.—
8	"(A) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—Except as
9	provided in subsection (b), whenever any insti-
10	tution receives a restricted or conditional gift
11	from or enters into a restricted or conditional
12	contract with a foreign source (regardless of the
13	value of such gift or contract) the institution
14	shall file a disclosure report with the Office for
15	Foreign Gifts and Contracts Oversight on Jan-
16	uary 31 or July 31, whichever is sooner.
17	"(B) Contents of disclosure.—Each
18	report under subparagraph (A) shall include the
19	following:
20	"(i) Nongovernmental sources.—
21	For gifts received from or contracts en-
22	tered into with a foreign source other than
23	a foreign government, the amount, the
24	date, and a description of such conditions
25	or restrictions. The report shall also dis-

1	close the country of citizenship, or if un-
2	known, the principal residence for a for-
3	eign source who is a natural person, and
4	the country of incorporation, or if un-
5	known, the principal place of business for
6	a foreign source which is a legal entity.
7	"(ii) Governmental sources.—For
8	gifts received from or contracts entered
9	into with a foreign government, the
10	amount, the date, a description of such
11	conditions or restrictions, and the name of
12	the foreign government.
13	"(b) Limitation on Acceptance of Certain
14	GIFTS AND CONTRACTS.—
15	"(1) Approval required.—An institution
16	may not accept a gift or enter into a contract de-
17	scribed in paragraph (3) unless—
18	"(A) the institution files a disclosure re-
19	port with the Office for Foreign Gifts and Con-
20	tracts Oversight that includes—
21	"(i) the dollar amount of the intended
22	gift or contract;
23	"(ii) all terms and conditions of the
24	intended gift or contract; and

1	"(iii) the legal or formal name of the
2	foreign source or associate of a foreign ad-
3	versary that intends to make the gift or
4	enter into the contract and—
5	"(I) in the case of a foreign
6	source or associate of a foreign adver-
7	sary who is a natural person, that
8	person's country of citizenship, or if
9	unknown, that person's principal
10	country of residence; or
11	"(II) in the case of a foreign
12	source or associate of a foreign adver-
13	sary which is a legal entity, the enti-
14	ty's principal place of business, if un-
15	known, the entity's country of incor-
16	poration;
17	"(B) an authorized official of the institu-
18	tion certifies to the Secretary that acceptance of
19	the gift or contract—
20	"(i) will not pose risks to the national
21	security interests of the United States;
22	"(ii) will not compromise the competi-
23	tiveness of the United States in the field to
24	which the gift or contract pertains; and

1	"(iii) will not result in any restrictions
2	on academic freedom or discourse, includ-
3	ing by influencing the hiring of faculty, the
4	acceptance of students, or the content of
5	instruction in a manner favorable to the
6	interests of the foreign source or associate
7	of a foreign adversary that intends to
8	make the gift or enter into the contract;
9	and
10	"(C) the Secretary, acting through the Of-
11	fice for Foreign Gifts and Contracts Over-
12	sight—
13	"(i) thoroughly reviews and verifies
14	the information submitted by the institu-
15	tion under subparagraphs (A) and (B);
16	"(ii) makes a determination, in writ-
17	ing, to approve the gift or contract; and
18	"(iii) transmits such approval to the
19	institution.
20	"(2) Notice of disapproval.—If the Sec-
21	retary disapproves a gift or contract under para-
22	graph (1)(C) the Secretary shall transmit notice of
23	such disapproval to the institution.

1	"(3) Gifts and contracts described.—The
2	gifts and contracts described in this paragraph are
3	the following:
4	"(A) Any gift from or contract with an as-
5	sociate of a foreign adversary the value of
6	which is \$10,000 or more, considered alone or
7	in combination with all other gifts from or con-
8	tracts with such person or entity.
9	"(B) Any gift from or contract with a for-
10	eign source (regardless of the value of such gift
11	or contract) that relates to the research, devel-
12	opment, or production of critical technologies
13	and, in consideration for which, a foreign
14	source would be granted access to material non-
15	public technical information held by an institu-
16	tion.
17	"(4) Criteria for heightened scrutiny.—
18	In making a determination whether to approve or
19	disapprove a gift or contract under paragraph
20	(1)(C), the Secretary shall apply a heightened stand-
21	ard of scrutiny to any gift or contract that relates
22	to one or more of the following:
23	"(A) Critical technologies.
24	"(B) Biotechnology.
25	"(C) Pharmaceuticals.

"(D) Artificial intelligence. 1 "(E) Quantum computing. 2 "(F) Machine learning. 3 "(G) Technologies with military applications. 6 "(H) Any other area of science, tech-7 nology, engineering, or mathematics. "(d) Availability of Documentation.—As part 8 of each disclosure required under this section, an institu-10 tion shall provide to the Secretary an assurance that the institution will, upon request of the Secretary, produce 12 true copies of any documentation relating to any gift, contract, or change in ownership or control subject to such disclosure requirements. 14 15 "(e) Translations.—Each report required to be submitted under this section and any documentation made 16 17 available under subsection (d) shall be provided in the English language. If any part of such report or docu-18 19 mentation requires translation from another language into 20 English for purposes of meeting the requirements of this 21 subsection, the institution shall ensure that the translation is performed by a third party unaffiliated with institution 23 or the foreign source concerned. 24 "(f) Relation to Other Reporting Require-25 MENTS.—

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"(1) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—If an institution subject to the disclosure requirements of subsection (a) is within a State which has enacted requirements for public disclosure of gifts from or contracts with a foreign source that are substantially similar to the requirements of this section, a copy of the disclosure report filed with the State may be filed with the Secretary in lieu of a report required under such subsection. The State in which the institution is located shall provide to the Secretary such assurances as the Secretary may require to establish that the institution has met the requirements for public disclosure under State law if the State report is filed.

- "(2) Use of other federal reports.—If an institution receives a gift from, or enters into a contract with, a foreign source, where any other department, agency, or bureau of the executive branch requires a report containing requirements substantially similar to those required under this section, a copy of the report may be filed with the Secretary in lieu of a report required under subsection (a).
- "(g) Public Disclosure and Modification of 22 23
- 24 "(1) In General.—Not later than 30 days 25 after receiving a disclosure report under this section,

Reports.—

- the Secretary shall make the full text of the report publicly available on the database established under paragraph (2).
 - "(2) Database.—The Secretary of Education shall establish a database of the reports submitted to the Secretary under this section. The database shall be hosted on a publicly accessible website of the Department of Education and the reports posted to the database shall be made available in an electronic format that—
- 11 "(A) includes the full text of each report 12 and any supporting documentation relating to 13 the report;
- "(B) is downloadable, searchable, and sortable; and
- 16 "(C) allows a user of the database to com-17 pare institutions based on the types and 18 amounts of foreign support received by such in-19 stitutions.
- "(h) Modifications.—The Secretary shall establish 21 a process to enable institutions to revise and update pre-22 viously filed disclosure reports under this section to ensure 23 accuracy, compliance, and ability to cure.
- 24 "(i) Sanctions for Noncompliance.—

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1	"(1) In general.—As a sanction for non-
2	compliance with the requirements of this section, the
3	Secretary of Education shall impose a fine on an in-
4	stitution that, in any year, knowingly or willfully vio-
5	lates this section, that is—
6	"(A) in an amount equal to at least 10
7	percent of the value of the gift or contract but
8	not more than the total amount of the gift or
9	contract with the foreign source in the case
10	of—
11	"(i) a failure to disclose a gift or con-
12	tract with a foreign source as required
13	under this section; or
14	"(ii) a failure to comply with sub-
15	section (d) or (e) with respect to such gift
16	or contract;
17	"(B) in an amount that is not more than
18	25 percent of the total amount of funding re-
19	ceived by the institution under this Act, as de-
20	scribed in paragraph (3), for the year in which
21	the violation occurred in the case of—
22	"(i) a failure to disclose ownership or
23	control by a foreign source in violation of
24	the requirements of subsection (a)(3); or

1	"(ii) a failure to comply with sub-
2	section (d) or (e) with respect to such dis-
3	closure; or
4	"(C) in the case of a failure to comply with
5	subsection (b)—
6	"(i) in an amount equal to the value
7	of the gift or contract; or
8	"(ii) not less than \$50,000 if the gift
9	or contract is of undetermined monetary
10	value.
11	"(2) Repeated failures.—
12	"(A) Knowing and willful fail-
13	URES.—In addition to a fine for a violation in
14	any year in accordance with paragraph (1), the
15	Secretary of Education shall impose a fine on
16	an institution that knowingly and willfully fails
17	in two consecutive years to comply with the re-
18	quirements of this section, that is—
19	"(i) in an amount that is not less
20	than \$100,000 but not more than twice
21	the amount of the gift or contract with the
22	foreign source, in the case of—
23	"(I) a failure to disclose a gift or
24	contract with a foreign source as re-
25	quired under this section; or

1	"(II) a failure to comply with
2	subsection (d) or (e) with respect to
3	such gift or contract; or
4	"(ii) in an amount that is not more
5	than 25 percent of the total amount of
6	funding received by the institution under
7	this Act for the year in which the violation
8	occurred in the case of—
9	"(I) a failure to disclose owner-
10	ship or control by a foreign source in
11	violation of the requirements of sub-
12	section (a)(3); or
13	"(II) a failure to comply with
14	subsection (d) or (e) with respect to
15	such disclosure.
16	"(B) SANCTION FOR REPEATED VIOLATION
17	OF GIFT AND CONTRACT ACCEPTANCE
18	RULES.—If an institution knowingly and will-
19	fully violates a provision of subsection (b) more
20	than once in a period of two consecutive years,
21	as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary
22	shall declare the institution to be ineligible to
23	receive funds and participate in programs under
24	this Act for a period of up to five years.

1	"(3) Calculation of Penalty.—For pur-
2	poses of paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(A)(ii), the total
3	amount of funding received by an institution under
4	this Act does not include any amounts received by
5	the institution from or on behalf of an individual
6	student that are derived from a grant or student
7	loan made under this Act.
8	"(j) Authority To Terminate or Modify Trans-
9	ACTIONS.—As a condition of receiving a gift from or enter-
10	ing into a contract with a foreign source or an associate
11	of a foreign adversary, an institution and any other party
12	to such gift or contract shall agree that the Office for For-
13	eign Gifts and Contracts Oversight shall have the author-
14	ity—
15	"(1) to review such gift or contract at any time;
16	and
17	"(2) if the Office determines that such gift or
18	contract poses a risk to the national security inter-
19	ests of the United States, the Office may—
20	"(A) terminate or modify such gift or con-
21	tract; or
22	"(B) require the institution to pay to the
23	Secretary an amount equal to the value of such
24	gift or contract.

1	"(k) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this sec-
2	tion shall be construed to require the disclosure or ap-
3	proval by the Department of Education of a tuition agree-
4	ment or other agreement entered into between an institu-
5	tion and an individual student in the regular course of
6	the student's enrollment at the institution.
7	"(l) Definitions.—In this section:
8	"(1) The term 'associate of a foreign adversary'
9	means—
10	"(A) a natural person (regardless of the
11	person's citizenship, nationality, or principal
12	place of residence) who derives a substantial
13	amount of income from business activities with
14	a foreign adversary; and
15	"(B) a legal entity (regardless of entity's
16	country of incorporation or principal place of
17	business) that derives a substantial amount of
18	revenue or income from business activities with
19	a foreign adversary.
20	"(2) The term 'contract' means any legally
21	binding agreement, including any agreement for the
22	acquisition by purchase, lease, or barter of property
23	or services by the foreign source, for the direct ben-
24	efit or use of either of the parties.

1	"(3) The term 'critical technologies' has the
2	meaning given that term section 801.204 of title 31,
3	Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor to
4	such regulation).
5	"(4) The term 'foreign adversary' means—
6	"(A) Cuba;
7	"(B) the Democratic People's Republic of
8	North Korea;
9	"(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran;
10	"(D) the People's Republic of China (in-
11	cluding the Hong Kong Special Administrative
12	Region and the Macau Special Administrative
13	Region);
14	"(E) the Russian Federation; and
15	"(F) any other nation designated as a for-
16	eign adversary by the Department of Commerce
17	for purposes of the implementation of Executive
18	Order 13873 (84 Fed. Reg. 22689), titled 'Se-
19	curing the Information and Communications
20	Technology and Services Supply Chain', and
21	dated May 15, 2019.
22	"(5) The term 'foreign source' means—
23	"(A) a foreign government, including an
24	agency of a foreign government:

1	"(B) a legal entity, governmental or other-
2	wise, created solely under the laws of a foreign
3	state or states;
4	"(C) an individual who is not a citizen or
5	a national of the United States or a trust terri-
6	tory or protectorate thereof;
7	"(D) an agent, including a subsidiary or
8	affiliate of a foreign legal entity, acting on be-
9	half of a foreign source; or
10	"(E) any individual or legal entity that, in
11	the period of one year preceding the date on
12	which the individual or entity made a gift to or
13	entered into a contract with an institution—
14	"(i) received a total of \$100,000 or
15	more in funds or subsidies from a foreign
16	government; or
17	"(ii) generated at least 40 percent of
18	the individual or entity's income or revenue
19	in a foreign country and the principal
20	place of residence or business of such indi-
21	vidual or entity is in that foreign country;
22	"(6) the term 'gift' means any gift of money,
23	property, or services;
24	"(7) the term 'institution' means—

1	"(A) any institution, public or private, or,
2	if a multicampus institution, any single campus
3	of such institution, in any State, that—
4	"(i) is legally authorized within such
5	State to provide a program of education
6	beyond secondary school;
7	"(ii) provides a program for which the
8	institution awards a bachelor's degree (or
9	provides not less than a 2-year program
10	which is acceptable for full credit toward
11	such a degree) or more advanced degrees;
12	and
13	"(iii) is accredited by a nationally rec-
14	ognized accrediting agency or association
15	and to which institution Federal financial
16	assistance is extended (directly or indi-
17	rectly through another entity or person), or
18	which institution receives support from the
19	extension of Federal financial assistance to
20	any of the institution's subunits; and
21	"(B) any organization associated with or
22	otherwise connected to an institution described
23	in subparagraph (A), including a university
24	foundation (as described in section 509(a)(3) of
25	the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) or a non-

1	profit organization (as described in section
2	501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
3	1986);
4	"(8) the term 'restricted or conditional gift or
5	contract' means any endowment, gift, grant, con-
6	tract, award, present, or property of any kind which
7	includes provisions regarding—
8	"(A) the employment, assignment, or ter-
9	mination of faculty;
10	"(B) the establishment of departments,
11	centers, research or lecture programs, or new
12	faculty positions;
13	"(C) the selection or admission of stu-
14	dents; or
15	"(D) the award of grants, loans, scholar-
16	ships, fellowships, or other forms of financial
17	aid restricted to students of a specified country,
18	religion, sex, ethnic origin, or political opin-
19	ion.".
20	(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The
21	amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect 90
22	days after the date of enactment of this Act and shall
23	apply with respect to gifts, contracts, and changes in the
24	ownership or control of an institution occurring on or after
25	such effective date.

1	(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than the effective date
2	specified in subsection (b), the President shall promulgate
3	regulations implementing section 117 of the Higher Edu-
4	cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f), as amended by sub-
5	section (a).
6	SEC. 2. OFFICE FOR FOREIGN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS
7	OVERSIGHT.
8	(a) Establishment.—Part B of title I of the Higher
9	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) is amend-
10	ed by inserting after section 117 the following:
11	"SEC. 117a. OFFICE FOR FOREIGN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS
12	OVERSIGHT.
13	"(a) Establishment.—There is established within
14	the Office of the Secretary of Education an Office for For-
15	eign Gifts and Contracts Oversight (referred to in this sec-
16	tion as the 'Office').
17	"(b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—The head of the Office shall
18	be the designee of the Secretary.
19	"(c) Responsibilities.—The responsibilities of the
20	Office shall be—
21	"(1) to monitor the compliance of institutions
22	with section 117;
23	"(2) to enforce the requirements of such section

with respect to such institutions;

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1	"(3) to represent the Department of Education
2	on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the
3	United States; and
4	"(4) to carry out such other duties and respon-
5	sibilities relating to foreign influence over institu-
6	tions as the Secretary determines appropriate.
7	"(d) Staff.—The Secretary shall ensure that the
8	Office is staffed by individuals with sufficient expertise to
9	carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c)."
10	(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The
11	amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect 90
12	days after the date of enactment of this Act.
13	(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than the effective date
14	specified in subsection (b), the President shall promulgate
15	regulations implementing section 117a of the Higher Edu-
16	cation Act of 1965, as added by subsection (a).
17	SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF OFFICE FOR FOREIGN GIFTS AND
18	CONTRACTS OVERSIGHT IN THE COMMITTEE

21 (a) Membership of the Committee on Foreign

ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED

- 22 INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section
- 23 721(k)(2) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50
- 24 U.S.C. 4565(k)(2)) is amended—

STATES.

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1	(1) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as sub-
2	paragraph (K); and
3	(2) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the fol-
4	lowing new subparagraph:
5	"(J) The head of the Office for Foreign
6	Gifts and Contracts Oversight of the Depart-
7	ment of Education (as described in section
8	117a of the Higher Education Act of 1965).".
9	(b) Covered Transactions and Lead Agency.—
10	(1) COVERED TRANSACTIONS.—Section
11	721(a)(4) of the Defense Production Act of 1950
12	(50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4)) is amended—
13	(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking
14	"subparagraph (B)(i)" and inserting "clauses
15	(i) or (vi) of subparagraph (B)"; and
16	(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
17	after clause (v) the following new clause:
18	"(vi) Any gift or contract described in
19	section 117(a)(1)(A) of the Higher Edu-
20	cation Act of 1965.".
21	(2) Lead agency.—Section 721(k)(5) of the
22	Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C.
23	4565(k)(5)) is amended—
24	(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
25	and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

1	(B) by striking "The Secretary" and in-
2	serting the following:
3	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary"; and
4	(C) by adding at the end the following new
5	subparagraph:
6	"(B) CERTAIN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS.—
7	With respect to a covered transaction described
8	in subsection (a)(4)(B)(v), the Secretary of the
9	Treasury shall designate the head of the Office
10	for Foreign Gifts and Contracts Oversight of
11	the Department of Education (as described in
12	section 117a of the Higher Education Act of
13	1965) as the lead agency on behalf of the Com-
14	mittee.".
15	(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection and the
16	amendments made by this subsection shall apply
17	with respect to any covered transaction described in
18	clause (v) of section 721(a)(4)(B) of the Defense
19	Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4)(B)),
20	the review or investigation of which is initiated
21	under section 721 of such Act on or after the date
22	of the enactment of this section.