

**Opening Statement of Ranking Member Frederica Wilson (FL-24)**

Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

*"Exposing the Dangers of the Influence of Foreign Adversaries on College Campuses"*

2175 Rayburn House Office Building

Thursday, July 13, 2023 | 10:15 a.m.

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Thank you, Thank you Chairman Owens, and good morning. I want to express my gratitude to our witnesses for their testimonies this morning.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Moss, my former educational advisor and all of the students in attendance for today's hearing. Your dedication to promoting inclusivity and innovation in our education system inspires all of the members of this Committee.

So welcome.

It is so important that this Committee recognizes that we are here to serve you and to address your needs.

We are the Education Committee.

Global collaborations and federal research investments are vital for the advancement of our society.

Through collaboration with global partners and strategic federal investments in research, universities across the world have made bold, forward-thinking strides in health, science, and technology.

The benefits of global partnerships undoubtedly help drive intellectual and campus diversity while bolstering our economy.

However, as the federal government provides roughly \$30 billion annually to colleges and universities to support research and development efforts, we must ensure that colleges and universities are transparent about their ties to foreign entities.

Section 117 of the *Higher Education Act* requires the Department of Education to collect and publicly disclose certain information about foreign gifts and contracts involving institutions of higher education.

This crucial process aims to promote public transparency regarding the role of foreign funding on higher education and safeguard government-funded activities against undue foreign influence.

Unfortunately, I fear that my Republican colleagues have over-emphasized enforcement rather than providing guidance regarding Section 117.

The lack of clear guidance hinders institutions' ability to comply with the law effectively.

We should focus on streamlining the oversight mechanisms in place to ensure Section 117 compliance. It should provide clear guidance for institutions to engage in international collaboration.

Finally, it would be so careless if I did not remind my Republican colleagues that asking for accountability and compliance in this hearing can occur without scapegoating our Asian-American community.

When discussing foreign influence on campus, it is imperative that we do not fuel prevailing anti-Asian sentiments.

Congress and this administration have raised valid concerns regarding the Chinese Communist Party and their agenda against the United States; these worries should not be twisted into an excuse to push anti-Asian rhetoric and we must safeguard our interests without adopting an extreme isolationist position.

Thank you and I yield back Mr. Chair.