

FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and Workforce

Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Republicans Would Rather Fuel Conspiracy Theories than Help Students, Parents, or Teachers

There is no credible evidence—none—that shows a foreign influence exists in any meaningful way in American K-12 schools. H.R. 1005, 1049, and 1069 are solutions in search of a problem, creating unnecessary red tape for our K-12 schools without providing any additional resources or support.

More importantly, in November, the Trump Administration announced it signed an interagency agreement to move the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Department of Labor. How can House Republicans justify giving the Department of Education more responsibilities while the Trump Administration is actively working to dismantle it?

The <u>Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act</u> (H.R. 1005) compels schools to implement new reporting mechanisms, monitoring procedures, and compliance structures despite the complete absence of verified threats.

H.R. 1005 would force school districts—many already facing shortages of teachers, counselors, and support staff—to divert critical time and resources from instruction to bureaucratic paperwork.

The <u>Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act</u> (H.R. 1049) requires schools to give parents access to an expansive range of materials, including curriculum and professional development resources purchased by "foreign entities of concern."

H.R. 1049 also adds layers of reporting, auditing, and bureaucracy for every public school district in the country—again, without a single dollar in federal funding to support these new responsibilities.

The <u>PROTECT Our Kids Act</u> (H.R. 1069) disqualifies public schools that receive financial contributions, materials, or other resources from China from receiving federal funding under the <u>Elementary and Secondary Education Act</u> (ESEA).

H.R. 1069 is not a targeted national security measure—it is a blunt instrument. Even *if* foreign influence were a verifiable problem, this bill, as drafted, does nothing to address actual national security threats. Instead, it punishes schools for accepting innocuous educational materials or participating in benign cultural exchange programs. It is poorly tailored, misdirected, and ultimately counterproductive.

Bottom Line

Parents are **most concerned** about gun violence in schools, teacher shortages, and ensuring that their children are attending a safe and welcoming school environment that is focused on academic achievement. Rather than attempting to meaningfully address parents' concerns, House Republicans are wasting time fueling conspiracy theories.