

**Vote “NO” on Republicans’ Bill that Would Jeopardize Global Research Partnerships**

*We can—and must—take targeted, evidence-based steps to protect our research and development initiatives without jeopardizing the global partnerships that benefit us all.*

**Background**

Section 117 of the *Higher Education Act* requires the Department of Education to collect and make publicly available certain information about foreign gifts and contracts involving institutions of higher education. Section 117 is intended to protect government-funded activities from undue foreign influence, such as intellectual property theft and conflicts of interest.

**The Problem**

**The *Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT) Act* (H.R. 5933) adds new and onerous reporting requirements under Section 117 that will make it nearly impossible for colleges and universities to be transparent about their partnerships with other countries.** For example, faculty must report any gift from a representative of a “country of concern” – no matter the value (i.e., a cup of coffee). The faculty’s information is then shared in a public database, regardless of whether the action was nefarious. This is so excessive and burdensome— to say nothing of the potential discriminatory effect—it would disincentivize universities from complying.

**Moreover, the *DETERRENT Act*’s requirements conflict with the work federal agencies are already doing to protect America’s research and development initiatives.**

**Universities are already grappling with recruiting and retaining students and scholars, and if passed, the *DETERRENT Act* would stall decades of innovative progress and jeopardize global research initiatives.** Students and faculties are calling on Congress to improve our higher education system and address discrimination on campuses. Specific provisions in this bill would exacerbate the ongoing culture wars that have consumed Republican politicians. For example, the legislation singles out partnerships with certain countries, targeting researchers based solely on their nationality.

Don’t just take our word for it. Here are what experts and industry leaders have [said](#) about the *DETERRENT Act*.

**The Solution**

Collaborating with global partners helps drive intellectual and campus diversity, strengthens our economy, and gives us an undeniable competitive edge. We can—and must—take targeted, evidence-based steps to protect our research and development initiatives without jeopardizing global partnerships.

The [Democratic substitute](#) builds on the *CHIPS and Science Act* and the Presidential Memorandum on Government-Supported Research and Development National Security Policy guidelines (NSPM-33). Specifically, it aligns reporting requirements with those of federal agencies and requires the Secretary of Education to go through negotiated rulemaking to address key implementation aspects of Section 117.