

Crucial Communism Teaching Act (H.R. 5349)

In accordance with the *General Education Provisions Act*, the federal government does not determine school curricula. Historically, Congress has given schools the authority to choose the curricula that best meets their needs, and has authorized institutions, such as the Smithsonian, to create and supply schools with the resources they need to create curricula on important matters for schools to access at their discretion.

What would the *Crucial Communism Teaching Act (H.R. 5349)* do?

H.R. 5349, the *Crucial Communism Teaching Act*, would provide the "Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation" with the resources to create curriculum that informs high school students of the detrimental effects of communism, totalitarianism, and similar political ideologies.

Students should gain a comprehensive understanding of the effects and dangers of communism and totalitarianism, however as written, the bill fails to include America's long-history of using the label of "Communism" as a tool for divisiveness and pinning Americans against each other. **H.R. 5349 runs the risk of falling into revisionist history and leaves students ill-informed of dangerous historical ideologies.**

At a September 2023 [markup](#), **Republicans on the Education and the Workforce Committee rejected Democrats' amendment to H.R. 5349** to explicitly include "fascism" in the list of political regimes covered by the bill. Without this language, a curricula developed under this bill could avoid discussing policies such as book banning, politically scapegoating migrants, and blind allegiance to a leader who not bound by law, all of which political scientists argue are [stepping stones to fascist regimes](#).