

May 4, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate 511 Dirksen Senate Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate 322 Hart Senate Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate:

On behalf of the 26 undersigned organizations, we urge Congress to adopt The DETERRENT Act (H.R. 1048 and S. 1296) and ensure its passage into law during this, the 119th Congress.

Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 requires institutions of higher education (IHE) that receive federal funding to disclose donations from and contracts with a foreign source to the US Department of Education. This allows full transparency and disclosure to the public of foreign funding in our institutions and programs of higher education.

As you know, there have been billions in funding from undemocratic nations to universities that have gone unreported to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) as mandated by Section 117 of the Higher Education Act, potentially exposing the United States to national security threats and depriving the American public of foreign funding transparency in our educational institutions. DOE's [newly-released foreign funding portal](#) goes a long way in making compliance easier for the universities and DOE's new partnership with the State Department allows the data gathered to be reviewed to ensure potential threats are addressed decisively and proactively to protect America's most vital interests.

The [DETERRENT Act](#) in the House had bipartisan sponsors and was passed with bipartisan votes in March of 2025. It amends Section 117 and provides that additional information in the disclosure of foreign gifts and contracts be provided; restricts contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern; requires certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts; requires disclosure once a year at a lower threshold amount as opposed to current law that requires reporting by IHE's twice a year; and imposes fines on institutions that fail to meet the new requirements.

The [Senate version](#) follows the House version and made a few revisions, including clauses protecting staff/student identity and removing Section 117 c, which had required expanded reporting of foreign investments by private university endowments.

Section 117 does not prohibit institutions from taking foreign money; instead, it mandates accurate and transparent disclosures of sources and amounts to the federal government for public view. The time is now to pass the updated DETERRENT Act.

We look forward to assisting you in this important effort.

Sincerely,

The Institute for the Study of Global
Antisemitism and Policy

Transparency International

B'nai B'rith International

The Rabbinical Council

Jewish Federations of North America

The American Muslim & Multifaith
Women's Empowerment Council

Endowment for Middle East Truth

The American Islamic Forum for Democracy

Chinese American Citizens Alliance of
Greater New York

The Hindu American Foundation

CUFI Action Fund

StandWithUs

Israel Economic Forum

FDD Action

NORPAC

CLARITY Coalition

The Orthodox Union

Scholars for Peace in the Middle East

Jewish Students for America

Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights
Under Law

HinduACTion

National Jewish Advocacy Center

North American Values Institute

The Republican Jewish Coalition

Parents Defending Education Action

Combat Antisemitism Movement