



RPC Highlight

H.R. 1069 - *PROTECT Our Kids Act*

Sponsored by Representative Kevin Hern (OK-01)
RPC Chairman

Bill Summary:

This legislation prohibits federal education funding for any elementary or secondary school which hosts a Confucius Classroom, a Chinese language or cultural program which is funded or otherwise supported by the Chinese government.

The Secretary of Education must notify elementary and secondary schools of this requirement as well as provide guidance for compliance, within 90 days of enactment. This legislation also allows these schools to request a waiver if they provide the text of their contract and a statement demonstrating the benefit this contract provides to both the school's mission and students as well as the security of the United States.

Policy Background:

Confucius Classrooms are Chinese language and cultural programs in elementary and secondary schools funded or otherwise supported by the Chinese government, both directly and indirectly through Confucius Institutes or other third parties.

More than 500 U.S. elementary and secondary schools have hosted Confucius Classrooms. These contracts allow the Chinese government to approve staff, create curriculum, monitor events, and require teachers to sign contracts pledging they will not damage the national interest of China.

In 2020, Secretaries DeVos and Pompeo sent a letter to state Education Commissioners outlining concerns with Confucius Classrooms and urging schools to consider the threat they pose to academic freedom.

Information from the Lead Sponsor's Office:

Press Release, February 6, 2025.

Committee Action:

This legislation received a markup and was reported favorably by the House Education and Workforce Committee on February 12, 2025, by a vote of 21-13.