

**Questions for the Record from
REPRESENTATIVE ELISE STEFANIK**

Full Committee Hearing:

Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Education

May 16, 2023

10:15 a.m.

Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21)

1. Foreign adversaries, like China and Russia, have taken actions to influence teaching, censor topics, and provide surveillance in U.S. institutions of higher education (IHE).
 - a) Do you believe it is important to protect postsecondary education from the influence of foreign adversaries?
 - b) If so, why did you withdraw the rule requiring universities to disclose agreements from Confucius Institutes? How are you planning to mitigate the extremely concerning challenges posed by Confucius Institutes to IHEs moving forward?
2. Under the previous administration, the Department opened 19 investigations into institutions that were potentially not in compliance with Section 117. Those investigations alone found \$6.5 billion in previously unreported foreign money, including over \$1 billion from anonymous donors from both China and Russia.
 - a) How many investigations has the Department opened under your leadership?
 - b) With the evidence uncovered by the Trump Administration, do you agree that colleges and universities have a history of noncompliance with Section 117 and troubling indifference to accepting large amounts of funding from foreign adversaries?
 - c) For the investigations you closed, what is the process for filing that information and who has access to it right now?
 - d) Given reporting that your Department has not opened any new investigations, and closed all the previously open ones, what is the Department's plan to mitigate foreign influence on institutions of higher education and ensure IHEs are in compliance with the law?