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Good morning, Chairman Bean, and members of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. Thank you for inviting me to speak on the topic of foreign influence in K-12 schools. This is a pressing and deeply concerning issue that has ramifications far beyond the K-12 school system. I would like to thank Parents Defending Education for their initial reporting and bringing awareness to the issue of foreign interference, specifically the Chinese government, in our K-12 education system.

Following the discovery that one of our school districts in Oklahoma, Tulsa Public Schools, was named in that report, my staff diligently conducted a further investigation into the issue and discovered a disturbing connection between the CCP and that school district. Through a series of non-profits, that school district maintains an active connection with the CCP through a program called Confucius Classrooms, even after the Federal Government cracked down on similar programs in 2020.

While on paper, Tulsa Public Schools partners with the IL Texas Global, a cursory investigation revealed that the Texas International Education Foundation, and more specifically, the Confucius Classroom Coordination Office, was established in partnership with Hanban, which was an entity of the CCP. While Hanban ceased operations in 2020, the connection with the CCP lingered

through a hidden partnership with the Chinese International Education Foundation. While the school board agenda item for this program only names IL Texas, the contract that was signed with the foundation includes several references to the Chinese International Education Foundation, which while technically a non-profit independent of the CCP, was initially organized by the CCP and has several worrying connections with the CCP.

The role that the CCP plays in some of our K-12 schools is an issue that goes far beyond the realm of education and has national security implications. Through programs such as Confucius Classrooms, we are allowing a hostile, foreign, anti-democratic government a foothold into our schools. As we saw with the initial launch of Confucius Institutes in universities across the US, when CCP-associated programs are present, there is a demonstrated track record of infringements on academic freedom and white washing of Chinese history. As I'm sure you know, conflicts today are fought on a different dimension than they were in years past. While we might not be taking up conventional arms against China and other hostile foreign governments, there is still a deep underlying conflict using the weapons of information, misinformation, and propaganda. It is hard enough to root out Chinese misinformation and propaganda without providing them with influence inside of our schools.

Thanks to the leadership of the Trump Administration, the Federal government had the common sense to stomp out Chinese influence in Higher Ed. However, Section 117 investigations –

having to do with foreign influence in higher ed – have essentially ceased under the Biden Administration.

With whatever common sense remains, I urge that Congress pass a law to ban schools from accepting money from hostile foreign governments and prohibit data sharing agreements with hostile foreign governments. At the state level, state education agencies should require districts to report foreign money they accept and non-profit money they accept. At our last State Board Meeting, we passed this measure, and it will allow us to conduct a more thorough investigation into foreign influence in our schools and provide more transparency to the Oklahoman taxpayer.

The acceptance of the CCP into our K-12 education system is a small part of a worrying trend in the education policies of the Far Left. The left's education policies attempt to remove parents from their child's education while offering a seat at the table to anyone else who wants it. These policies undermine the Constitution and the American way of life, and I cannot stress enough how urgent it is that we take action to ensure our education system protects the Constitution and protects American values.

Beyond the Everyone-But-Parents approach to education, the historical revisionism present in these foreign-influenced programs deeply troubling because we are doing our adversary's work

for them. I can only imagine the smiles on the faces of Chinese Intelligence officials as they see how children are taught by our own schools that America is an evil country, that our founding fathers were evil, and that our American values are evil. At a time when our country is under attack from hostile governments, it is critical that we teach true history: this means true American history, true Chinese history, and true World history.

In all tyrannical governments, we see education used as a tool to lie to and control the masses. Under Mao's Regime in China, education played a key role in the violent and radical Cultural Revolution. In North Korea, the education system is used to maintain the dangerous cult of personality that allows the current regime to stay in power despite one of the worst track records of human rights violations and censorship that we have seen in the Modern World. In Russia, we have seen an active disinformation campaign that is in place both internally within Russia and externally within the United States. Misinformation and propaganda are dangerous tools in the hands of authoritarian governments, and we will not allow those tools to be used in our American classrooms. We are not Communist China, we are not Russia, and we are not North Korea. In our classrooms we will teach true history, and we need to take immediate action against hostile countries who attempt to shroud that history in propaganda.

The role that people like Nancy Pelosi and Joe Biden have played in excluding parents while including hostile foreign governments in education is shameful. The left has turned a blind eye to

the harmful influence that the CCP exerts through programs like Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms. We've seen it in Higher Ed, and we've seen it in K-12, that when we allow hostile foreign governments into our education system, we surrender academic freedom and American values. When we surrender those things, we surrender our nation. We are facing a dangerous attack on our education system and our national security. That is why I urge you today to take immediate action against the growing influence of these governments and stand up for an American education system uninfluenced by the CCP and other hostile actors.

It is an honor to represent the people of Oklahoma here today. Thank you for your time.