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FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, foreign influence in American education, higher education especially, is a growing threat that cannot be ignored.

For years, adversaries, like the Chinese Communist Party, have funneled billions into U.S. colleges and universities through undisclosed donations and contracts, gaining influence over research, curriculum, and even campus policies.

These backdoor financial arrangements jeopardize academic integrity and national security, allowing foreign governments to push their own agendas under the guise of educational partnerships. Foreign regimes, including the Chinese Communist Party, have capitalized on loopholes in the Higher Education Act to expand their influence. Many U.S. institutions fail to disclose foreign gifts, as required, allowing foreign entities to quietly infiltrate and manipulate academic environments.

The DETERRENT Act, which will be taken up soon, introduced by my colleague from Washington, Representative BAUMGARTNER, takes a decisive stand against this threat by enhancing foreign gift and contract reporting requirements. By slashing the reporting threshold to just \$50,000 and implementing an even stricter zero-dollar threshold for countries and entities of concern, the bill ensures universities disclose all foreign funding regardless of its size or source. Lowering that threshold will bring more and more of them into the light.

China alone has sent over \$1 billion to U.S. universities in the past decade, much of it undisclosed until recently. These financial ties have been linked to research theft, censorship of critical discussions, and undue pressure on faculty and students. A congressional investigation uncovered nearly \$40 million in unreported contracts between two top U.S. universities and the CCP.

Foreign-backed research centers are often used as footholds for regimes to infiltrate American institutions, steal intellectual property, and push their political agendas. Some universities, either unknowingly or in pursuit of financial gain, have allowed foreign-funded centers to operate on campus, shaping curriculum, limiting academic freedom, and suppressing dissenting viewpoints.

The DETERRENT Act strengthens reporting requirements, ensures greater transparency to Congress and the public, and imposes strict penalties for noncompliance. It requires universities to disclose foreign gifts and contracts to individual faculty members, who are often the most targeted by adversarial regimes. It also holds private institutions accountable by revealing foreign investments in their endowments.

With the current administration failing to investigate this growing threat, the DETERRENT Act provides a necessary course correction.

Foreign influence not only threatens the integrity of academic research but also compromises national security by giving adversarial governments access to sensitive technological advancements. These financial entanglements, if left unchecked, will continue to erode the independence of U.S. institutions, putting both intellectual freedom and national interests at risk.

Higher education should be a place where students are taught how to think, not what to think, especially by foreign entities with their own agendas that go against United States interests.

Increased oversight is essential to ensure that universities serve the interests of students and the Nation, not those of adversarial regimes. With the previous administration failing to take this step, it is essential that we do that now with the DETERRENT Act.

CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, with the eyes of the Nation on Alabama and Auburn men's basketball as they compete in the NCAA March Madness championship tournament, I would like to also shed a light on the outstanding high school basketball players in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District who led their teams to championship victories this season.

That includes the girls' 7A champions at Hoover High School, who dominated their competition and brought home the gold at the end of their 29-3 season. Way to go, ladies.

Likewise, Hoover High School's boys were also crowned 7A champions at the end of their undefeated season. Go, Hoover Buccaneers.

In Tuscaloosa, we recognize the boys of Paul W. Bryant High School, who took home the Division 6A Championship title following their 27-7 season.

In Clarke County, we congratulate the Jackson Academy boys, who finished their 21-4 season when they won the Division 4A championship.

Last, but certainly not least, I congratulate Uniontown's own R.C. Hatch boys' basketball team. In February, the Bobcats set a new record for boys' basketball in the State of Alabama when they took home their 11th State title as Division 1A champions.

As the proud daughter of the late Coach Andrew A. Sewell, who coached the Selma High School Saints for over 30 years, including in numerous State tournament games, I know firsthand the amount of dedication, talent, and teamwork that goes into earning a State championship title.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues

to join me in congratulating our outstanding high school basketball champions. I am confident that these young student athletes have bright futures ahead of them.

This weekend, the city of Birmingham will host the NCAA women's basketball Sweet 16 and Elite 8 in the Magic City. We welcome all of the teams to Birmingham, Alabama, and wish them much success.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize yesterday as National Medal of Honor Day, a solemn occasion when our Nation pauses to reflect on the extraordinary heroism and selflessness of those who have received our country's highest military award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

National Medal of Honor Day is an opportunity to pay tribute not only to their acts of courage but also to the profound sacrifices made in the defense of our freedoms.

Over 150 years ago, on March 25, 1863, the very first Medals of Honor were presented, establishing a tradition of recognizing those who displayed unparalleled bravery in the face of overwhelming danger.

More than a century later, in 1990, Congress designated March 25 as National Medal of Honor Day, ensuring that future generations would never forget the servicemembers who went above and beyond the call of duty.

Since its inception, the Medal of Honor has been awarded 3,547 times to servicemembers who have demonstrated extraordinary bravery and devotion to their fellow troops and our Nation. Among those, 380 recipients have called Pennsylvania home, a testament to the courage and selflessness of the sons and daughters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

One of those remarkable Pennsylvanians was Army Specialist Ross McGinnis, a young man from Clarion County who, at just 19 years old, made the ultimate sacrifice to save the lives of his fellow soldiers.

On December 4, 2006, while on patrol in eastern Baghdad, Specialist McGinnis and his unit came under attack. An enemy insurgent positioned on a rooftop hurled a grenade into his Humvee.

Without hesitation, Specialist McGinnis threw his body onto the grenade, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. For this incomparable courage and sacrifice, President George W. Bush posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor in 2008.

Today, the post office in Knox, Pennsylvania, bears his name, ensuring that his legacy of heroism endures in the community he once called home.

Another Pennsylvanian whose bravery is etched in history is Private First

Class Foster Sayers, a 20-year-old infantryman from my hometown of Howard, Pennsylvania, who answered the call to serve during World War II.

On November 12, 1944, while fighting near Thionville, France, Private Sayers singlehandedly charged enemy positions, drawing fire away from his unit and allowing his fellow soldiers to successfully flank and capture the enemy stronghold.

His courage, sacrifice, and dedication to duty earned him the Medal of Honor. Eighty years later, his name remains a symbol of the price of our freedom.

In November of last year, I had the privilege of presenting two flags to Foster Sayers, Jr., and Foster Sayers III, in honor of their father and grandfather's legacy.

Foster Sayers was married to his wife, Ellen, at the time he deployed. He never met Fos, who actually was my neighbor for a lot of years, for decades, and married to my dad's cousin. Foster's wife, Ellen, was actually my babysitter when I was growing up. They are a remarkable family.

Behind every Medal of Honor recipient is a family that has also sacrificed. Our military families often bear the weight of their loved one's service. I also thank them for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, when we observe National Medal of Honor Day, we honor these heroes, and we affirm our sacred obligation to all who wear the uniform. We must ensure that our veterans and servicemembers are treated with the dignity, care, and gratitude that they have so courageously earned.

Let us continue to build a country worthy of the sacrifices of our veterans. May God bless our veterans, our fallen heroes, and our great Nation.

UNDERSTANDING TARIFFS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that most Americans are not economists, trade experts, or well versed in the intricacies of tax policy. If you will, I want to take this opportunity to sort of "Schoolhouse Rock" tariffs. Let's talk about what they are, how they work, and how they impact Americans and their families.

Tariffs are taxes on imported goods, plain and simple. When the government slaps a tariff on a product, it makes the product more expensive to buy from other countries.

Take your sneakers. Most sneakers are made with rubber, synthetic fabrics, and leather, stuff that gets imported from China and other places. Let's say the government puts a tariff on those materials. That is an extra included tax on materials that make up the sneakers.

Now these products become more expensive to make, and the way that companies make up for that is passing that cost on to the consumer. A pair of sneakers that cost \$30 might now cost

\$50 after tariffs are imposed. You now have to work more to get more money and then pay more for the same exact pair of sneakers.

The idea of tariffs is to protect American businesses and jobs. The reality, though, is, as you can see with the sneaker example, it often backfires. Other countries hit back with their own tariffs, hurting American manufacturers and workers.

Now, are tariffs always bad? The answer is no. When used correctly, tariffs can be a powerful tool. They can protect American jobs, boost key industries, and stop countries like China from flooding our market with cheap, low-quality goods.

When a country imposes tariffs strategically on industries we need to rebuild, like steel and manufacturing and technology, we can give American businesses the breathing room to compete and grow. When foreign countries play dirty with unfair trade practices, tariffs can be a productive way to respond to that.

Here is the key: Tariffs have to be smart. When used correctly, tariffs can defend American industry. When used incorrectly, though, they are just another tax on working people. Right now, the Trump administration is using tariffs in the wrong way, and their actions are causing costs to skyrocket for families in Texas and all American families.

To be clear, Trump's tariffs on Canada and Mexico are nothing but a tax on American businesses and consumers. They are two of our biggest trading partners. For example, Mexico is Texas' largest trading partner, accounting for one-third of our State's exports. In 2023, trade between Texas and Mexico totaled more than \$272 billion. We trade so many products with our neighbors to the south that families in Texas use every day, like tomatoes, greens, avocados, car parts, electronics, plastics, and the list goes on. With Canada, Texas buys steel and lumber to build homes to ensure families have a roof over their heads.

All of these products will have higher costs, and the only ones who will pay more are the families and businesses that buy them. Instead of strengthening those relationships with our neighbors, Trump's tariffs are making everything more expensive for us.

What do we get in return? Absolutely nothing. American companies didn't suddenly stop buying from Canada or Mexico. They just have to pay more to do it. Meanwhile, those countries have hit back with their own tariffs, hurting Americans across the board. Instead of using tariffs for smart trade policy, Trump is using them as a political stunt that punishes the very people it claims to help.

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Madam Speaker, these tariffs are self-inflicted wounds on the American economy. We see this every day in the stock market with the market value

falling by trillions of dollars over the past few weeks. Those in their twenties, thirties, and forties have lost tons of money in their 401(k).

I should also mention something else because I know there is something more sinister going on. Right now, we have Elon Musk in the White House. He has been our president since January 20, calling all the shots and using President Trump as his puppet.

These tariffs will benefit his businesses because they are being imposed on Elon's competition. This is a clear conflict of interest. It is wrong, and it is a display of the grift and the greed that the Trump administration has ushered into this White House.

None of this is about helping American families. None of this is about lowering costs. This is about Trump and Musk settling scores, causing chaos, and making sure they line their pockets on the backs of Americans and the middle class.

Madam Speaker, we need to end these reckless tariffs and get back to lowering costs for the people we serve.

HONORING MARCH VETERAN OF THE MONTH LIEUTENANT COMMANDER GREG COWAN

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding American and our March Veteran of the Month, Lieutenant Commander Greg Cowan, United States Navy, Retired, from Lebanon, Missouri, in Laclede County.

Greg Cowan's service to our Nation spans more than two decades, beginning in 1980 when he enlisted in the Navy. From his early days as an aviation electronics technician, to earning a commission through the Naval ROTC program, his dedication and commitment to our Nation never wavered. He served in duty stations across the country and around the world, from Rota, Spain, to Camp Lemonnier in Africa.

He deployed multiple times to the CENTCOM areas of operation, serving aboard the USS *Comstock*, the USS *Kitty Hawk*, USS *Harpers Ferry*, and USS *Inchon*. His leadership as a surface warfare officer was instrumental in ensuring mission success and in training the next generation of warfighters.

After retiring in 2024, Lieutenant Commander Cowan's passion for service continued through his dedication to mentoring and teaching others. His career is a testament to the values of duty, honor, and country.

Today, we salute Lieutenant Commander Greg Cowan and thank him for his selfless service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the United States Navy and to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING GOLD APPLE BOUTIQUE

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we are proud to recognize Gold Apple