

CONGRATULATING FRANK ABBATE ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Frank Abbate on his upcoming retirement next Thursday, marking the end of a 36-year career in public service in Brevard County.

Frank has spent the last several years, since 2017, serving as our Brevard County manager. Throughout his tenure, he has played a key role in guiding Brevard County through a period of substantial growth and change.

Frank's steady leadership helped preserve the unique character of our community while meeting the evolving needs of our residents.

Mr. Speaker, as he prepares to close this chapter, I thank Frank for his dedicated service to Brevard County, and I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

FIGHTING TO REINSTATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TELEVISION

(Ms. ELFRETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I stand here on the House floor as an American proudly and profoundly shaped by the wonder and joy of public television.

Mister Rogers taught us how to be a good neighbor. Bill Nye inspired us to ask questions and never give up on the search for discovery. "Sesame Street" taught us how to read and count while instilling values of sharing and empathy.

Mr. Speaker, I would be hard-pressed to find an American in this Nation whose childhood wasn't profoundly shaped by the magic of public television. For over 50 years, PBS has brought our kids educational, inspiring, and commercial-free media, but last week, the Trump administration issued an executive order slashing Federal funding to NPR and PBS, meaning that smaller stations would lose nearly half of their funding, posing an existential threat to the future of this media.

I contend that the values that PBS taught us all are exactly the values we need in this moment and the values we could use right here in this Chamber: how to think critically, how to care for the Earth and one another with respect and dignity, how to count votes, how to resolve our differences with manners and empathy, all of which is why I continue to push for the reinstatement of these funds so that future generations can benefit as I did. I will be fighting for viewers like you.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Correctional Officers Week.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated the first full week of May to honor correctional officers, calling them "a vital component of the field of corrections."

Correctional officers carry out one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs in public service: maintaining the custody, safety, and well-being of inmates in our prisons and jails.

Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District is home to three such Bureau of Prisons facilities: FCI McKean, FCI Allenwood, and USP Lewisburg.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked closely with the correctional officers at these facilities to find solutions in addressing the BOP's biggest obstacles, including addressing chronic staffing shortages plaguing these and other facilities nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, correctional officers serve with professionalism and courage. As we recognize these important law enforcement officers this week, I remain committed to resolving these challenges to protect those who protect our communities. They deserve our full support, and I thank all correctional officers for their service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TROY WENDELL PATE, JR.

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Troy Wendell Pate, Jr., of Goldsboro, North Carolina, who passed at the age of 94.

Mr. Pate was a United States Navy veteran of the Korean war, a lifelong banker, and a dedicated community servant.

After a distinguished career as the CEO of East Coast Savings Bank, he devoted his time to enhancing education, fostering economic development, and strengthening military relations in Wayne County. He served as the trustee and the chair at East Carolina University and was instrumental in helping to bring the Brody School of Medicine into the East.

Mr. Pate also worked tirelessly to support Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, founding the Seymour Support Group and advising Air Force leadership at the highest levels. His many honors include the Air Force Distinguished Public Service award and The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Troy Pate's life exemplifies service, leadership, and a deep love for eastern North Carolina and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Joyce, and the Pate family.

RECOGNIZING SMITH'S BAKERIES

(Mr. FONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a cherished institution in my district, Smith's Bakeries, located in Bakersfield, California.

Since 1945, Smith's has been more than just a bakery. It has been a pillar of joy in our community. Founded by Howard Smith and Roy Balmain, the goal was simple: to provide the best baked goods possible.

As we celebrate Small Business Week, Smith's Bakeries exemplifies how local businesses can thrive while staying deeply connected to their customers. A key part of their success is Jim Balmain, son of cofounder Roy, who, along with his wife, Jacque, took over in 1985, ensuring the bakery's continued legacy.

Celebrating 80 years of business, Smith's has been a symbol of excellence and community spirit, known for their iconic treats, like the famous happy face cookie.

As Jim Balmain once said: "If you care and you try to do things right, people will appreciate it," and that is exactly what Smith's has done for decades.

Here is to many more years of sweet memories and continued success for one of the most popular small businesses in California's 20th District.

□ 1215

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 7, 2025, at 11:07 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 12.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 61.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1403

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

DHS RESTRICTIONS ON CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES AND CHINESE ENTITIES OF CONCERN ACT

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 377, I call up the bill (H.R. 881) to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 377, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-2, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 881

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act".

SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES' HOST SCHOOLS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHINESE ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term "Chinese entity of concern" means any university or college in the People's Republic of China that—

(A) is involved in the implementation of military-civil fusion;

(B) participates in the Chinese defense industrial base;

(C) is affiliated with the Chinese State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for the National Defense;

(D) receives funding from any organization subordinate to the Central Military Commission of the Chinese Communist Party;

(E) provides support to any security, defense, police, or intelligence organization of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party;

(F) purposefully undermines the United States' relationship with Taiwan;

(G) aids, abets, or enables the detention, imprisonment, persecution, or forced labor of Uyghur Muslims in the People's Republic of China;

(H) willfully and knowingly engages in malicious activities, including online disinformation campaigns and propaganda, for the purpose of interfering with United States Federal, State, or local elections; or

(I) is affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

(2) CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE.—The term "Confucius Institute" means a cultural institute funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the

meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

(4) RELATIONSHIP.—The term "relationship" means, with respect to an institution of higher education, any contract awarded, or agreement entered into, as well as any in-kind donation or gift, received from a Confucius Institute or Chinese entity of concern.

(5) THOUSAND TALENTS PROGRAM.—The term "Thousand Talents Program" means any technological or educational program funded or administered by the Chinese Communist Party's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

(b) RESTRICTIONS ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that an institution of higher education (referred to in this subsection as an "institution") which has a relationship with a Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern is ineligible to receive any funds from the Department of Homeland Security, unless the institution terminates the relationship between the institution and such Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern, as the case may be. Upon termination of such a relationship, the institution at issue shall be eligible to receive funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may, after consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, on a case-by-case basis and for a period not to exceed one year, waive the application of subsection (b) with respect to an institution of higher education if the Secretary determines the institution at issue maintains robust safeguards and enforcement protocols to monitor the relationship at issue, including active measures to detect and deter attempts by Chinese nationals affiliated with a Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern that is the subject of such relationship to gain unauthorized access to sensitive research, data, or federally funded development activities conducted at or on the premises of, or by, such institution, and either of the following conditions is satisfied:

(A) The relationship at issue is in the national security interests of the United States.

(B) The relationship at issue does not present a direct or indirect national security risk to the United States or its allies.

(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may, after consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, annually renew a waiver issued pursuant to paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines all of the conditions described in such paragraph continue to be satisfied.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—A waiver issued or renewed pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), respectively, takes effect and applies beginning on the date that is 30 days after such issuance or renewal, as the case may be.

(4) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, issues or renews a waiver pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), respectively, not later than 30 days before such issuance or renewal, as the case may be, takes effect, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate written notification regarding such issuance or renewal, including a justification relating thereto.

(d) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide outreach and, upon request, technical assistance to institutions of higher education relating to compliance with this Act.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and annu-

ally thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding implementation of this section during the immediately preceding 12 month period. Each such report shall include information relating to the following:

(1) Any institution of higher education that has a relationship with a Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern and receives funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) The implementation of subsections (b), (c), and (d).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 881.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 881, the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern.

I have long been concerned that the threats the Chinese Communist Party poses to our homeland are not only real, but they are right here.

In the Homeland Security Committee and on my Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, we have heard from a wide array of national security experts and law enforcement officials who have continuously raised alarms about the CCP's increasing subversive activities inside our country through organizations like the CCP's Confucius Institutes, the Thousand Talents Program, and other CCP-affiliated groups.

While Confucius Institutes are presented as centers for promoting Chinese language and culture, it is proven that they have been used to steal critical research, recruit talent for military-civil fusion enterprises, conduct espionage, commit transnational repression, and influence academic institutions to the benefit of the CCP.

At their peak, the United States hosted approximately 118 Confucius Institutes, primarily at colleges and universities. Now, there are fewer than 14 active Confucius Institutes today, but the danger still remains. Many of these programs have rebranded themselves within universities with the same mission as before, and that is to subvert national security and expand CCP influence operations.