

the apprenticeship agreement forms to make them more accessible.

These changes will help aspiring health workers get trained faster and step into good-paying, stable jobs. It will reduce barriers for employers, strengthen our workforce pipeline, and expand access to care in communities that desperately need it.

Our bipartisan bill supports workers and providers and helps ensure that every family can rely on a healthcare system that is accessible, affordable, and built to meet their needs.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

□ 0920

50th ANNIVERSARY OF IDEA, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, which mandated that every child with a disability in America should have access to a high-quality public education.

When Congress passed IDEA in 1975, it was a landmark step toward educational equity. It opened classroom doors to ensure that every child with a disability could grow, learn, and succeed at school. The legislation expanded opportunities for millions of students with disabilities, helping them reach their full potential.

Unfortunately, before 1975, students with disabilities had long been denied access to public education, but IDEA transformed the public school experience for students with disabilities and their families.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to our students in this country. Thanks to IDEA, our education system is working to serve the needs of every student in America.

This important milestone shows how far we have come in educating students with disabilities, and the legacy of this landmark legislation means a brighter future for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DANIEL JAMES SULLIVAN, SR.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel James Sullivan of Chicago, a veteran, a man of deep faith, and, above all, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Daniel served our country during the Korean war where his compassion stood out, once building a false-bottom delivery truck to secretly deliver bread to nuns at a nearby orphanage.

Daniel brought that same spirit to his family, his church, and his community. A loyal Chicagoan and a proud Chicago sports fan, nothing gave him more joy than the time he spent with his six grandchildren.

Of his six grandchildren, I had the pleasure of working with Catherine Flannery who interned in my Washington, D.C., office.

Mr. Speaker, we remember and honor Daniel Sullivan not just as a veteran but as the kind of American we should all aspire to be. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLIE TOMBRAS, JR.

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and fellow east Tennessean, Charlie Tombras, Jr. Charlie passed away at 83 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Charlie was a Knoxville native. After high school, he continued his education at the University of Tennessee where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

After his time at UT, Charlie served his country by joining the Army and heading to Vietnam, becoming a decorated Army Ranger. After his service, he returned to Knoxville to work for his father, the legendary Charles P. Tombras, Sr., founder of the Tombras Group Advertising Agency.

Charlie demonstrated grit and dedication to advertising and pioneered campaigns for many of the world's most recognizable brands. Charlie also kick-started the process of establishing the Tombras School of Advertising and Public Relations at our beloved University of Tennessee in 2022.

In addition to his successful business ventures, Charlie was a great outdoorsman, holding records in marlin fly-fishing, sailfishing, and spearfishing, and loved to spend his spare time in the Smoky Mountains and the rivers of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie was a known all-American family man, who passed in the presence of his loved ones after a long battle with leukemia.

We love and miss him.

VENEZUELA BOAT STRIKES

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, commanding our Armed Forces and safeguarding our national security requires exemplary honor, experience, and loyalty to the Constitution.

Yet time and time again, the President and his Defense Secretary have proven themselves unfit. They have ordered dozens of illegal strikes on al-

leged drug boats in the Caribbean without congressional approval. This week, we have learned they likely committed war crimes by ordering a second strike targeting and killing survivors.

At the same time, President Trump is pardoning criminals like Juan Orlando Hernandez, the former President of Honduras who was convicted in a U.S. court for smuggling more than 500 tons of cocaine into our country and was sentenced to 45 years.

The President is also threatening violence against our very Members of Congress who simply reminded our military of their constitutional duty not to follow illegal orders. Most troubling, the President doesn't know how to lead, and he doesn't care.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my Republican colleagues, ask yourself: Is the President serious about stopping the flow of fentanyl?

No. He is deathly unserious.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program known as MARL.

Twenty-five years ago, MARL was founded with the goal of developing the skills of Minnesota's agriculture and rural leaders, connecting them with educational resources to build their influence and effectiveness at local, State, national, and international levels.

In the year 2000, the first MARL class was selected with the inaugural seminar held that November. Today, MARL is recognized throughout Minnesota as the leading agriculture and rural leadership development program.

The idea for MARL was sparked by a 2-year research and development project between Southwest Minnesota State University, University of Minnesota Extension, and the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

Since its creation, the MARL program has continued to grow throughout the past two-and-a-half decades, with some of Minnesota's well-respected leaders among its alumni.

Mr. Speaker, as a past board member of MARL, I am especially proud to recognize this outstanding program for its commitment to educating and training tomorrow's rural leaders for the past 25 years. I wish them many more years of success.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States Institute of Peace was created

by the Congress of the United States. It is in a beautiful building, and it served the function of trying to bring people together.

In February, President Trump issued an executive order dismantling the United States Institute of Peace. Subsequently, law enforcement removed the president of the United States Institute of Peace forcibly from his office, and then the Trump administration fired every employee and dismantled the office.

A district court has ruled that he acted improperly because the Congress created the United States Institute of Peace and the President didn't have the authority to dismantle it.

Today, I have learned that President Trump has had his name in massive letters put over the United States Institute of Peace calling it the Donald J. Trump Peace Institute, none of which is legal.

Will his ego stop staining this city by putting his name and his picture all over banners contemporaneous or similar to Teddy Roosevelt at the Department of Labor and others?

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Randall Holstead, one of his secretaries.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE OVERSIGHT TO ELIMINATE COMMUNIST TEACHINGS FOR OUR KIDS ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 916, I call up the bill (H.R. 1069) to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 916, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 1069

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Responsible Oversight To Eliminate Communist Teachings for Our Kids Act" or the "PROTECT Our Kids Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

(a) *PROHIBITION.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be made available under an applicable program to any elementary school or secondary school that—

(1) *has a partnership in effect with a cultural or language institute directly or indirectly fund-*

ed by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including a Confucius Institute;

(2) *operates a learning center directly or indirectly supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China (commonly referred to as a "Confucius Classroom"); or*

(3) *otherwise receives support from an individual or entity acting directly or indirectly on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, including support in the form of teaching materials, personnel, funds, or other resources.*

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) *CONTRACTS MADE PRIOR TO DATE OF ENACTMENT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—

(A) *WAIVER REQUEST SUBMISSION.*—In the case of an elementary school or a secondary school that is a party to a contract described in paragraph (2), the school timely shall submit to the Secretary a request for a waiver of the prohibition under subsection (a) that includes—

(i) *the complete and unredacted text of the contract, and if the contract is not in English, a translated copy of the text into English; and*

(ii) *a statement demonstrating that the contract is for the benefit of the school's mission and students and will promote the security, stability, and economic vitality of the United States.*

(B) *WAIVER ISSUANCE.*—The Secretary, upon receipt of a request submitted under subparagraph (A), may issue a waiver to the school for a period beginning on the effective date specified in subsection (b) and ending the date on which the contract terminates.

(2) *CONTRACTS DESCRIBED.*—A contract is described in this paragraph if the contract—

(A) *takes effect before the date of the enactment of this Act;*

(B) *continues to be effective after the effective date specified in subsection (b); and*

(C) *relates to at least one of the circumstances described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a).*

(d) *NOTICE TO AFFECTED SCHOOLS.*—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide notice to elementary and secondary schools of the requirements of this section together with guidance for achieving compliance with such requirements.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *APPLICABLE PROGRAM.*—The term "applicable program" has the meaning given that term in section 400(c)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1221(c)(1)).

(2) *ESEA TERMS.*—The terms "elementary school", "secondary school", and "Secretary" have the meanings given those terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

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 Education and Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1069.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1069. American classrooms are becoming battlegrounds for foreign influence. For years, my colleagues and I have sounded the alarm about adversaries exploiting our education system. Malign foreign entities like the Chinese Communist Party are working to undermine American values not just on college campuses but across our K-12 schools, as well. This is not only an attack on education and academic integrity, it is a threat to our national security.

□ 0930

Across U.S. colleges, the CCP established Confucius Institutes to push false narratives, whitewash history, and endear American students to the CCP while obscuring its brutal human rights abuses. However, these propaganda operations didn't stop at higher education. In K-12 schools, Confucius classrooms sprang up, aiming to shape the minds of our youngest learners.

At a 2023 Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education hearing, Defending Education highlighted a report exposing nearly two decades of CCP efforts to influence thousands of children. At one point, more than 500 schools hosted Confucius classrooms, many located on U.S. military bases. That is no coincidence. Those programs are a deliberate attempt to undermine American values and compromise our security.

That is why I proudly support H.R. 1069, the Promoting Responsible Oversight To Eliminate Communist Teachings for Our Kids, or the PROTECT Act, from Representative KEVIN HERN and Representative KEVIN KILEY. This legislation prohibits Federal funds from going to any school that also accepts funding from the Chinese Communist Party. It also sets a clear precedent: The U.S. will not allow a foreign regime to dictate what our children learn.

When schools accept CCP funding, they are effectively letting a totalitarian government decide their curriculum. In China, students are taught only what the Communist Party allows. America must never cede that authority. Confucius classrooms have never been reciprocated in China, where U.S.-style cultural exchanges on this scale are forbidden.

The CCP is not interested in genuine cultural exchange or open dialogue. Its goal is indoctrination, teaching students that China is benevolent, while erasing events like the Tiananmen Square massacre and ignoring the ongoing Uyghur genocide and other human rights abuses. By accepting CCP funding, schools shield students from the truth because the party does not want them to know it.