

HR 1146 Resolution
By
Dr. Ken Williams
Member, Orange County Board of Education

Whereas, education without political indoctrination or influence is essential to the well-being of American democracy and public and private education institutions and organizations; and

Whereas, Confucius Institutes (CIs) are non-profit public educational organizations operating at colleges and universities around the world. They are funded jointly by the Chinese Government or Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and a host university. The institutes are operated by the Chinese Language Council International, an agency of the Chinese Ministry of Education¹; and

Whereas, according to the National Association of Scholars², Confucius Institutes (CIs) and an associated ancillary international and national model, called Confucius Classrooms (CCs), are directly tied into the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and are negatively impacting K-12 curriculum and education, and higher education in universities and colleges in America; and

Whereas, Confucius Classrooms expand the purpose and intent CIs. Approximately 500 American K-12 schools have hosted CCs, which was earlier aided by but now formally terminated, by the Asia Society Chinese language network^{3,4}.

Whereas, Confucius Classrooms are CCP initiatives funded by the Propaganda Department and Chinese Ministry of Education through the Hanban network of the CCP⁵, and advances the “*ideology work*” of censorship in China and abroad through China’s United Front Work department⁶; and

Whereas, Confucius Classrooms and CIs have rebranded or established “new” centers or entities that continue to exert CCP influence at higher education and in K-12 classrooms. These include but are not limited to Ministry of Education Center for Language Exchange and Cooperation (CLEC), and the Chinese International Education Foundation (CIEF)¹; and

¹ <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/us-government-investigates-us-universities-participating-confucius-institutes>

² <https://www.nas.org/reports/after-confucius-institutes/full-report>

³ <https://www.plu.edu/confucius-institute/past-programs/confucius-classrooms/>

⁴ <https://asiasociety.org/education/update-asia-societys-chinese-language-program>

⁵ <https://www.smschool.us/learning/the-confucius-classroom>

⁶ <https://www.newsweek.com/confucius-classroom-conundrum-opinion-1577492>

Whereas, in 2019 FBI Director Christopher Wray in a US Senate hearing ⁷ testified the CCP via Confucius Institutes are using education as a “soft power strategy” to influence American policies and restrict academic freedom and promote CCP propaganda ⁸; and

Whereas, Confucius Classroom’s exist in numerous classrooms in the United States ⁹; and

Whereas, Congresswomen Michelle Steel has introduced legislation for herself, Ms. Stefanik, and Mr. Crenshaw, in the first session of the 118th Congress, HR 1146 ¹⁰, “*Stop Higher Education Espionage and Theft Act of 2023*,” that addresses threats to education in the United States; and

Whereas, HR 1146, was introduced February 21, 2023, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education, Foreign Affairs, Workforce; and

Therefore, the Orange County Board of Education resolves the following:

1. Endorse and strongly support Congresswoman’s Steel Congressional bill-HR 1146.
2. Recommend a state Commission and study on Confucius Classrooms in K-12 education.
3. Recommend high education institutions, county departments of education, and K-12 school districts ~~and~~ scrutinize foreign funding of curricula and CCP influence.
4. Advance opportunities to study Chinese language and culture—through collaboration with organizations and entities not associated with the CCP.

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0


STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

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COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, Tim Shaw, President of the Orange County Board of Education, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 6th day of September, 2023, and passed by 5-0 vote of said Board members present.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th day of September, 2023.



Tim Shaw, President
Orange County Board of Education

⁷ <https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings/open-hearing-worldwide-threats-0>

⁸ <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/01/16/how-china-infiltrated-us-classrooms-216327/>

⁹ <https://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/confucius-classrooms>

¹⁰ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1146/text?s=1&r=2>