

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight
and Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight
and Reform

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman, Committee on Education
and Labor

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member, Committee on Education
and Labor

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security

The Honorable Michael D. Rogers
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

The Honorable Devin Nunes
Ranking Member, Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman, Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Marc Thornberry
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Eliot L. Engle
Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member, Foreign Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2020

Dear Chairmen, Chairwomen, and Ranking Members,

The American Council on Education (ACE) and the undersigned higher education associations are working to address security concerns regarding malign foreign influence at institutions of higher education and efforts to protect federally funded research from theft and foreign intrusion. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your committee staff to provide a briefing on these efforts, specifically on Section 117 and our work on behalf of our member institutions to understand and respond to these reporting obligations.

As you are aware, Section 117 of the Higher Education Act requires institutions of higher education that receive Title IV federal student aid dollars to submit to the Secretary of Education reports about gifts of \$250,000 or more received from any foreign source, contracts with a foreign entity, and any ownership interests in or control over the institution by a foreign entity.

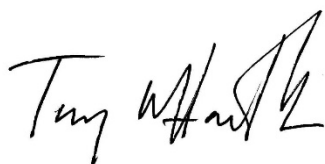
Given the recent congressional interest in Section 117, we would like the opportunity to brief your committees regarding the history of Sec. 117, timeline of our engagement with the U.S. Department of Education seeking clarification of compliance obligations, and work with

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to address uncertainties in the current statute and efforts to enhance Sec. 117 through legislation.

We share a strong interest with the government in safeguarding the integrity of government-funded research and protecting academic freedom and free speech from malign foreign influence and/or interference. We also take seriously our responsibility to ensure transparency around the relationships U.S. colleges and universities have with foreign entities. Accordingly, we welcome the opportunity to continue to work with Congress to address these important issues.

We stand ready to act as a resource on this important issue for your committees and Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Hartle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hartle".

Terry Hartle
Senior Vice President
Government and Public Affairs

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
National Association of Independent College and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators