



The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Smith,

An investigation conducted by our partner organization, Parents Defending Education (PDE), exposed how millions of dollars of China-linked funding has flowed into America's K-12 classrooms. Through records requests and publicly available information, it was discovered that 143 school districts across the United States have engaged in contracts to establish Confucius Institutes and Classrooms, including several that are near 20 U.S. military bases.

China is the greatest geopolitical threat currently facing the United States. A recent Department of Defense [assessment](#) of developments involving the People's Republic of China, describe them "as the only competitor with the intent and, increasingly, the capacity to reshape the international order." Their goal is to overtake the United States as the leading global superpower and they are employing a broad range of tactics to meet their strategic objectives, which include infiltrating America's classrooms.

Since 2009, China has worked through its own Ministry of Education to establish ties with American schools through Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms. By 2020, there were as many as [575](#) of these Confucius programs on college campuses and K-12 classrooms nationwide. In some cases, Chinese nationals used to teach at these programs are hand-selected and vetted by the Chinese government, giving the CCP direct access to America's classrooms. It also poses security risks for student information, curriculum, and intellectual property.

China has openly admitted they use these programs to assert Chinese influence around the world. In 2009, former Chinese Communist Party Senior Chairman Li Changchun admitted that Confucius Institutes were an "important part of China's overseas propaganda set-up" and in 2017 Chinese government officials lauded the programs as a way to push China's Belt and Road initiative. Due to security concerns, the State Department designated Confucius Institutes a "foreign mission" of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). As of March of this year, several are still in operation [today](#).

Through PDE's investigation, it was revealed that Confucius Institutes and Classrooms were operating in schools in the vicinity of the following U.S. military bases:

1. U.S. Naval Academy and Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis
2. Buckley Air Force Base and Space Force
3. Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
4. Dover Air Force Base
5. Fort Bliss
6. Fort Bragg
7. Fort Knox

8. Naval Station Great Lakes
9. Hanscom Air Force Base
10. Hill Air Force Base
11. Lackland Air Force Base
12. Langley Air Force Base
13. Los Angeles Air Force Base
14. MacDill Air Force Base
15. McGuire Air Force Base
16. U.S. Coast Guard Academy and Naval Submarine Base New London
17. Nellis Air Force Base
18. Naval Station Norfolk
19. Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
20. Naval Base San Diego

Allowing China to have unfettered access to America's schools poses significant security risks to students and their families. It becomes even more dangerous when this is happening near sensitive locations containing information critical to our national security.

American families deserve full transparency on foreign resources used to fund their children's education. This should be a priority to both keep students safe and to protect America's interests. We urge the committee to investigate this issue further, specifically to provide oversight, hold hearings, and call on the Department of Defense to implement necessary measures to protect Americans and our military from these security risks. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Michele P. Exner
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Senior Advisor, Parents Defending Education