

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5760

To establish a program to monitor and combat the People’s Republic of China’s malign influence across military, economic, and political sectors in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 27, 2021

Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. MELJER, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. MANN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a program to monitor and combat the People’s Republic of China’s malign influence across military, economic, and political sectors in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “China Watcher Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CHINA WATCHER PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
7 nation with relevant offices and bureaus of the Depart-
8 ment of Defense, shall implement a program, to be known

1 as the “China Watcher Program”, within the Department
2 of State to—

3 (1) monitor and combat the People’s Republic
4 of China’s malign influence across military, eco-
5 nomic, and political sectors in foreign countries;

6 (2) monitor the People’s Republic of China’s
7 military trends abroad and counter its activities and
8 advancements in foreign nations that pose a threat
9 to United States interests and the rules-based order;
10 and

11 (3) strengthen the capacity of United States
12 Government to engage with foreign countries and re-
13 gional and international military, economic, and po-
14 litical organizations and institutions relating to pol-
15 icy coordination regarding the People’s Republic of
16 China and efforts to counter the People’s Republic
17 of China’s malign influence.

18 (b) PLACEMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the China
20 Watcher Program under this section, the Secretary
21 of State, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
22 fense, shall place officers in positions in select
23 United States diplomatic and consular posts, in co-
24 ordination with the Secretary of State, to engage
25 both Chinese and third-country nationals, including

1 host governments and non-government entities, on
2 the matters described in subsection (a).

3 (2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary of State shall—

4 (A) in selecting diplomatic and consular
5 posts, prioritize foreign countries in which Chi-
6 nese influence has been historically significant
7 and in which United States interests and per-
8 sons are vulnerable to the People’s Republic of
9 China’s malign activities; and

10 (B) in placing personnel in such posts, se-
11 lect, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
12 fense, personnel within either the Department
13 of State or the Department of Defense who
14 have sufficient subject matter expertise, lan-
15 guage skills, and training to carry out their
16 functions effectively.

17 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each post or mission with a
19 China Watcher Program shall produce an annual re-
20 port outlining the steps it has taken to advance the
21 mission, trends and analysis, and the nature and ex-
22 tent of Chinese foreign direct investment and influ-
23 ence in key military, economic, and political sectors,
24 including technology, manufacturing, transportation,
25 energy, metals, agriculture, real estate, and defense.

1 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such report
2 shall include an assessment of the investment, trade,
3 and other risks posed by Chinese malign influence as
4 well as instances of predatory actions by the Peo-
5 ple’s Republic of China or its affiliates.

6 (d) RISK ASSESSMENT.—The annual report required
7 by subsection (c) shall include a risk assessment which
8 shall be made publicly available. The Secretary of State,
9 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall, based
10 on the results of such report, make publicly available a
11 list of countries of concern in regard to the likelihood of
12 economic espionage and coercion or influence of the Peo-
13 ple’s Republic of China across military, economic, and po-
14 litical sectors.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year
17 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this sec-
18 tion.

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