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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

President Anthony P. Monaco
Office of the President, Ballou Hall 2nd Floor
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155

March 8, 2018

Dear President Monaco:

I write to express strong concerns with efforts by Chinese government-run "Confucius Institutes" to intimidate academics and twist academic discourse in a direction favorable to the People's Republic of China. Specifically, I encourage your institution to resist such Chinese government efforts to establish an Institute on your campus or seriously reconsider any such existing agreement.

In 2014, the American Association of University Professors published a study stating the Institutes "function as an arm of the Chinese state and...ignore academic freedom." It details "[m]ost agreements establishing Confucius Institutes feature nondisclosure clauses and unacceptable concessions to the political aims and practices of the government of China" and recommended the Institutes be closed. In February of this year, during testimony at a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, FBI Director Christopher Wray stated he has "concerns about the Confucius Institutes." He continued, "We've been watching that development for a while. It's just one of many tools that [the Chinese government] takes advantage of."

The Chinese government has been clear in its goal and purpose for creating and expanding Confucius Institutes throughout the country, namely to distort academic discourse on China, threaten and silence defenders of human rights, and create a climate intolerant of dissent or open discussion. Numerous press reports have detailed the one-sided interpretations of history and political thought the Institutes propagate, including policies preventing or fundamentally distorting content or discussions on Tibet, Taiwan, Tiananmen Square, the Falun Gong, and other basic human rights

issues.

There are more than 100 Confucius Institutes in the United States, including at the University of Massachusetts – Boston and Tufts University. The Institute at UMass Boston was established under a 2006 agreement, which was later extended for five years in 2013, and the Institute on Tufts' campus was established in 2015. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members have raised concerns publicly and with my office about the Institute's activities and efforts to sow government influence and in UMass Boston's case, urged university leadership not to renew their agreement.

Ample opportunities and avenues exist to learn about the rich, historic Chinese culture and language through other means instead of an undemocratic government's effort to restrict free expression and open dialogue on American college campuses.

Recognizing such concerns, universities such as the University of Chicago and Pennsylvania State University ended their partnerships with Confucius Institutes in 2014.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully urge you to resist Chinese government efforts to establish an Institute on your campus or seriously reconsider any such existing agreement.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress