

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1157

To provide for the authorization of appropriations for the Countering the People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the authorization of appropriations for the Countering the People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund, 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 “Countering the PRC
5 Malign Influence Fund Authorization Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COUN-**
7 **TERING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**
8 **MALIGN INFLUENCE FUND.**

9 (a) COUNTERING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
10 CHINA MALIGN INFLUENCE FUND.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
2 appropriated \$325,000,000 for each of fiscal years
3 2023 through 2027 for the Countering the People’s
4 Republic of China Malign Influence Fund to counter
5 the malign influence of the Chinese Communist
6 Party and the Government of the People’s Republic
7 of China and entities acting on their behalf globally.

8 (2) AVAILABILITY; AMOUNTS IN ADDITION TO
9 OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
10 to the authorization of appropriations under para-
11 graph (1)—

12 (A) are authorized to remain available
13 until expended; and

14 (B) shall be in addition to amounts other-
15 wise authorized to be appropriated for the pur-
16 poses described in paragraph (1).

17 (b) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The obligation of
18 funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of ap-
19 propriations under subsection (a) or otherwise made avail-
20 able for the purposes described in subsection (a)(1) shall
21 be subject to prior consultation with, and consistent with
22 section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
23 U.S.C. 2394–1), the regular notification procedures of—

24 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
25 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
2 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives.

4 (c) POLICY GUIDANCE, COORDINATION, AND AP-
5 PROVAL.—

6 (1) COORDINATOR.—The Secretary of State
7 shall designate an existing senior official of the De-
8 partment of State to provide policy guidance, coordi-
9 nation, and approval for the obligation of funds ap-
10 propriated pursuant to the authorization of appro-
11 priations under subsection (a).

12 (2) ASSISTANT COORDINATOR.—The Adminis-
13 trator of the United States Agency for International
14 Development shall designate an existing senior offi-
15 cial of the United States Agency for International
16 Development to assist and consult with the senior
17 official of the Department of State designated pur-
18 suant to paragraph (1).

19 (3) DUTIES.—The senior official of the Depart-
20 ment of State designated pursuant to paragraph (1)
21 shall be responsible for—

22 (A) on an annual basis, the identification
23 of specific strategic priorities for using funds
24 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of
25 appropriations under subsection (a), such as ge-

1 ographic areas of focus or functional categories
2 of programming that funds are to be con-
3 centrated within, consistent with the national
4 interests of the United States and the purposes
5 of this section;

6 (B) the coordination and approval of all
7 programming conducted using such funds,
8 based on an assessment that such programming
9 directly counters the malign influence of the
10 Chinese Communist Party or the Government
11 of the People’s Republic of China, including
12 specific activities or policies advanced by the
13 Chinese Communist Party or the Government
14 of the People’s Republic of China and entities
15 acting on their behalf globally, pursuant to the
16 strategic objectives of the United States, as es-
17 tablished in the 2017 National Security Strat-
18 egy, the 2018 National Defense Strategy, and
19 other relevant national and regional strategies
20 as appropriate;

21 (C) ensuring that all programming ap-
22 proved bears a sufficiently direct nexus to such
23 activities of the Chinese Communist Party or
24 the Government of the People’s Republic of
25 China described in subsection (d) and adheres

1 to the requirements outlined in subsection (e);
2 and

3 (D) conducting oversight, monitoring, and
4 evaluation of the effectiveness of all program-
5 ming conducted using such funds to ensure that
6 it advances United States interests and de-
7 grades the ability of the Chinese Communist
8 Party or the Government of the People's Re-
9 public of China, to advance activities that align
10 with subsection (d) of this section.

11 (4) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The senior
12 official of the Department of State designated pur-
13 suant to paragraph (1) shall, in coordinating and
14 approving programming pursuant to paragraph (2),
15 seek—

16 (A) to conduct appropriate interagency
17 consultation; and

18 (B) to ensure, to the maximum extent
19 practicable, that all approved programming
20 functions in concert with other Federal activi-
21 ties to counter the malign influence of the Chi-
22 nese Communist Party or the Government of
23 the People's Republic of China.

24 (d) MALIGN INFLUENCE.—In this section, the term
25 “malign influence”, with respect to the Chinese Com-

1 minist Party or the Government of the People’s Republic
2 of China, shall be construed to include acts conducted by
3 the Chinese Communist Party or the Government of the
4 People’s Republic of China, or entities acting on their be-
5 half that—

6 (1) undermine a free and open international
7 order;

8 (2) advance an alternative, repressive inter-
9 national order that bolsters the Chinese Communist
10 Party’s or the Government of the People’s Republic
11 of China’s hegemonic ambitions and is characterized
12 by coercion and dependency;

13 (3) undermine the national security or sov-
14 ereignty of the United States or other countries; or

15 (4) undermine the economic security of the
16 United States or other countries, including by pro-
17 moting corruption and advancing coercive economic
18 practices.

19 (e) COUNTERING MALIGN INFLUENCE.—In this sec-
20 tion, countering malign influence through the use of funds
21 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-
22 tions under subsection (a) shall include efforts—

23 (1) to promote transparency and accountability,
24 and reduce corruption, including in governance
25 structures targeted by the malign influence of the

1 Chinese Communist Party or the Government of the
2 People’s Republic of China;

3 (2) to support civil society and independent
4 media to raise awareness of and increase trans-
5 parency regarding the negative impact of activities
6 related to the Belt and Road Initiative, associated
7 initiatives, other economic initiatives with strategic
8 or political purposes, and coercive economic prac-
9 tices;

10 (3) to counter transnational criminal networks
11 that benefit, or benefit from, the malign influence of
12 the Chinese Communist Party or the Government of
13 the People’s Republic of China;

14 (4) to encourage economic development struc-
15 tures that help protect against predatory lending
16 schemes, including support for market-based alter-
17 natives in key economic sectors, such as digital econ-
18 omy, energy, and infrastructure;

19 (5) to counter activities that provide undue in-
20 fluence to the security forces of the People’s Repub-
21 lic of China;

22 (6) to expose misinformation and
23 disinformation of the Chinese Communist Party’s or
24 the Government of the People’s Republic of China’s

1 propaganda, including through programs carried out
2 by the Global Engagement Center; and

3 (7) to counter efforts by the Chinese Com-
4 munist Party or the Government of the People's Re-
5 public of China to legitimize or promote authori-
6 tarian ideology and governance models.

7 (f) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—Not later than September
8 30, 2023, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the senior
9 official of the Department of State designated pursuant
10 to subsection (c)(1) shall submit to the congressional com-
11 mittees specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection
12 (b), a summary identifying each activity or program ap-
13 proved pursuant to subsection (c), and shall include—

14 (1) for each program or activity, an identifica-
15 tion of the country or regional location of the pro-
16 gram or activity;

17 (2) for each program or activity, whether the
18 program or activity was ongoing prior to receiving
19 support from funds from the Countering People's
20 Republic of China Malign Influence Fund, or any
21 predecessor resource intended for the same or sub-
22 stantially similar purpose;

23 (3) for each program or activity, an identifica-
24 tion of the acts described in subsection (d) that such
25 program or activity is intended to counter; and

1 (4) a table identifying the respective allocation
2 of all programs or activities approved during that
3 fiscal year across accounts and regional or functional
4 bureaus.

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