

## Setting the Record Straight: The DETERRENT Act

The DETERRENT Act is a targeted transparency and enforcement update to existing law. It closes known disclosure gaps, strengthens oversight, and protects national security without regulating academic content, imposing blanket funding bans, or creating new burdensome requirements.

<p><b>Myth:</b> The DETERRENT Act bans foreign funding and legitimate international partnerships.</p>	<p><b>FACT: The bill does not impose a blanket ban on foreign funding.</b> It prohibits contracts with a narrow set of designated countries and entities of concern, based on documented national security risks, and includes a time-limited waiver subject to interagency review and congressional notification.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> The bill interferes with academic freedom or regulates educational content.</p>	<p><b>FACT: The DETERRENT Act does not regulate curriculum, speech, hiring, or research outcomes.</b> It focuses solely on financial transparency and reporting related to foreign gifts and contracts.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> Existing law already provides sufficient oversight.</p>	<p><b>FACT: Section 117 has been chronically underreported and inconsistently enforced.</b> The bill clarifies reporting standards, improves data quality, and ensures disclosures are usable for oversight and national security review without unreasonably expanding regulatory scope.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> Lowering the reporting threshold will overwhelm institutions with paperwork.</p>	<p><b>FACT: Institutions already collect this information.</b> The bill lowers the threshold and requires aggregation across affiliated entities to close loopholes that allowed large donations to evade disclosure through fragmentation.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> The DETERRENT Act creates a new federal compliance regime.</p>	<p><b>FACT: The bill strengthens enforcement of existing law and compliance regimes.</b> It builds on current Section 117 requirements rather than creating a new reporting system.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> Faculty and staff disclosure requirements are overly broad.</p>	<p><b>FACT: These requirements apply only to specified institutions receiving significant federal research funding or Title VI support.</b> They align with existing federal research security guidance and focus on foreign gifts and contracts, not specific academic activity or research content.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> The bill exposes donors and individuals to privacy risks.</p>	<p><b>FACT: Privacy protections are explicit in the legislation.</b> The identities of persons are protected in public disclosures, while unredacted information is shared only with appropriate national security agencies for necessary, lawful oversight.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> The designation of countries of concern is arbitrary or political.</p>	<p><b>FACT: Designations are risk-based and grounded in longstanding bipartisan national security assessments.</b> The bill aligns higher education transparency requirements with existing federal authorities and intelligence evaluations.</p>