

1 **RESOLUTION TO PROTECT UTAH'S INSTITUTIONS OF**
2 **HIGHER EDUCATION FROM CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**
3 **INFLUENCE**

4 2021 GENERAL SESSION

5 STATE OF UTAH

6 **Chief Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci**

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This resolution calls on Utah's institutions of higher education to close their Confucius
11 institutes and disclose certain information related to Confucius institutes to the
12 Legislature.

13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14 This resolution:

- 15 ▶ describes the history, purpose, and breadth of Confucius institutes at United States
16 institutions of higher education;
- 17 ▶ describes concerns that government agencies and associations of scholars have
18 regarding China's use of Confucius institutes to spread propaganda;
- 19 ▶ commends Utah's institutions of higher education that have closed their Confucius
20 institutes; and
- 21 ▶ calls on Utah's institutions of higher education that have Confucius institutes to:
 - 22 • disclose information about the institutes, including contracts between the
23 institution and China; and
 - 24 • close their Confucius institutes.

25 **Special Clauses:**

26 None

28 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

29 WHEREAS, since 2004, Confucius institutes at United States institutions of higher

30 education have offered a combination of Mandarin language classes, cultural programming,
31 and outreach to kindergarten through grade 12 schools and communities more broadly;

32 WHEREAS, Confucius institutes are staffed in part with visiting teachers from China
33 and are partially funded by the People's Republic of China government, under guidance from
34 the Chinese Communist Party's United Front Work Department;

35 WHEREAS, as of August 2020, there were 75 Confucius institutes operating in the
36 United States, of which 65 were active on United States university campuses;

37 WHEREAS, the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
38 found that the Confucius institute program is run by the Chinese government through the
39 Ministry of Education's Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban);

40 WHEREAS, the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
41 found that each United States university with a Confucius institute signs a contract with
42 Hanban establishing the terms of hosting the institute, and those contracts generally contain
43 provisions that:

- 44 ▶ both United States and Chinese laws apply to the contract;
- 45 ▶ limit public disclosure of the contract; and
- 46 ▶ state that the Chinese director and teachers must "conscientiously safeguard
47 national interests";

48 WHEREAS, in August 2020, the United States Department of State designated the
49 Confucius Institute United States Center, which is the de facto headquarters of the Confucius
50 institute network, as a foreign mission of the People's Republic of China and has stated that
51 Confucius institutes "push out skewed Chinese language and cultural training for United States
52 students as part of Beijing's multifaceted propaganda efforts";

53 WHEREAS, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Counterintelligence
54 Division has warned of China's efforts to conduct espionage through Confucius institutes;

55 WHEREAS, the American Association of University Professors has decried the threat
56 that Confucius institutes place on academic freedom;

57 WHEREAS, the National Association of Scholars has stated that Confucius institutes,

58 "avoid Chinese political history and human rights abuses, portray Taiwan and Tibet as
59 undisputed territories of China, and educate a generation of American students with selective
60 knowledge of a major country";

61 WHEREAS, in 2010, China's then Minister of Propaganda reportedly described the
62 country's foreign activity goal in the People's Daily, the largest newspaper group in China, as:
63 "Coordinate the efforts of overseas and domestic propaganda, further create a favorable
64 international environment for us... With regard to key issues that influence our sovereignty and
65 safety, we should actively carry out international propaganda battles against issues such as
66 Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan, Human Rights, and Falun Gong. Our strategy is to pro-actively take
67 our culture abroad...[w]e should do well in establishing and operating overseas cultural centers
68 and Confucius institutes";

69 WHEREAS, since 2014, 45 American universities in 30 different states have already
70 closed their Confucius institutes;

71 WHEREAS, several Utah institutions of higher education have Confucius institutes;
72 and

73 WHEREAS, it is essential that students in Utah's higher education system have access
74 to language and cultural offerings free from manipulation of the Chinese Communist Party and
75 its proxies:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
77 commends Utah institutions of higher education that have closed or are in the process of
78 closing Confucius institutes on their campuses.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives strongly encourages
80 institutions of higher education in the state with Confucius institutes to close the institutes
81 before December 1, 2022.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives discourages Utah
83 institutions of higher education that do not have Confucius institutes from pursuing
84 relationships with the Chinese Communist Party or opening Confucius institutes.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives requests that each

86 institution of higher education with a Confucius institute disclose to the Legislature the
87 contract for the institutes and any efforts by the institute to influence events hosted by the
88 higher education institution related to issues that may be deemed sensitive to the Chinese
89 Communist Party, such as events that are critical of Chinese Communist Party policies towards
90 Taiwan, the Uyghur minority, Hong Kong, Tibet, or repression of other ethnic and religious
91 minorities.

92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah Board
93 of Higher Education and each degree-granting institution that is part of the Utah system of
94 higher education.