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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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".

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

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

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
7 appropriated \$325,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
8 2023 through 2027 for the Countering the People's  
9 Republic of China Malign Influence Fund to counter  
10 the malign influence of the Chinese Communist  
11 Party and the Government of the People's Republic  
12 of China and entities acting on their behalf globally.

13 (2) AVAILABILITY; AMOUNTS IN ADDITION TO  
14 OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant  
15 to the authorization of appropriations under para-  
16 graph (1)—

17 (A) are authorized to remain available  
18 until expended; and

19 (B) shall be in addition to amounts other-  
20 wise authorized to be appropriated for the pur-  
21 poses described in paragraph (1).

22 (b) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The obligation of  
23 funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of ap-  
24 propriations under subsection (a) or otherwise made avail-  
25 able for the purposes described in subsection (a)(1) shall  
26 be subject to prior consultation with, and consistent with

1 section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22  
2 U.S.C. 2394–1), the regular notification procedures of—

3 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and  
4 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

5 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
6 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives.

8 (c) POLICY GUIDANCE, COORDINATION, AND AP-  
9 PROVAL.—

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

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

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

1 (A) on an annual basis, the identification  
2 of specific strategic priorities for using funds  
3 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of  
4 appropriations under subsection (a), such as ge-  
5 ographic areas of focus or functional categories  
6 of programming that funds are to be con-  
7 centrated within, consistent with the national  
8 interests of the United States and the purposes  
9 of this section;

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

1 (C) ensuring that all programming ap-  
2 proved bears a sufficiently direct nexus to such  
3 activities of the Chinese Communist Party or  
4 the Government of the People's Republic of  
5 China described in subsection (d) and adheres  
6 to the requirements outlined in subsection (e);  
7 and

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

16 (4) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The senior  
17 official of the Department of State designated pur-  
18 suant to paragraph (1) shall, in coordinating and  
19 approving programming pursuant to paragraph (2),  
20 seek—

21 (A) to conduct appropriate interagency  
22 consultation; and

23 (B) to ensure, to the maximum extent  
24 practicable, that all approved programming  
25 functions in concert with other Federal activi-

1           ties to counter the malign influence of the Chi-  
2           nese Communist Party or the Government of  
3           the People’s Republic of China.

4           (d) MALIGN INFLUENCE.—In this section, the term  
5           “malign influence”, with respect to the Chinese Com-  
6           munist Party or the Government of the People’s Republic  
7           of China, shall be construed to include acts conducted by  
8           the Chinese Communist Party or the Government of the  
9           People’s Republic of China, or entities acting on their be-  
10          half that—

11           (1) undermine a free and open international  
12          order;

13           (2) advance an alternative, repressive inter-  
14          national order that bolsters the Chinese Communist  
15          Party’s or the Government of the People’s Republic  
16          of China’s hegemonic ambitions and is characterized  
17          by coercion and dependency;

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

20           (4) undermine the economic security of the  
21          United States or other countries, including by pro-  
22          moting corruption and advancing coercive economic  
23          practices.

24           (e) COUNTERING MALIGN INFLUENCE.—In this sec-  
25          tion, countering malign influence through the use of funds

1 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-  
2 tions under subsection (a) shall include efforts—

3           (1) to promote transparency and accountability,  
4           and reduce corruption, including in governance  
5           structures targeted by the malign influence of the  
6           Chinese Communist Party or the Government of the  
7           People’s Republic of China;

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

15          (3) to counter transnational criminal networks  
16          that benefit, or benefit from, the malign influence of  
17          the Chinese Communist Party or the Government of  
18          the People’s Republic of China;

19          (4) to encourage economic development struc-  
20          tures that help protect against predatory lending  
21          schemes, including support for market-based alter-  
22          natives in key economic sectors, such as digital econ-  
23          omy, energy, and infrastructure;

1           (5) to counter activities that provide undue in-  
2           fluence to the security forces of the People’s Repub-  
3           lic of China;

4           (6) to expose misinformation and  
5           disinformation of the Chinese Communist Party’s or  
6           the Government of the People’s Republic of China’s  
7           propaganda, including through programs carried out  
8           by the Global Engagement Center; and

9           (7) to counter efforts by the Chinese Com-  
10          munist Party or the Government of the People’s Re-  
11          public of China to legitimize or promote authori-  
12          tarian ideology and governance models.

13          (f) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—Not later than September  
14          30, 2023, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the senior  
15          official of the Department of State designated pursuant  
16          to subsection (c)(1) shall submit to the congressional com-  
17          mittees specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection  
18          (b), a summary identifying each activity or program ap-  
19          proved pursuant to subsection (c), and shall include—

20                 (1) for each program or activity, an identifica-  
21                 tion of the country or regional location of the pro-  
22                 gram or activity;

23                 (2) for each program or activity, whether the  
24                 program or activity was ongoing prior to receiving  
25                 support from funds from the Countering People’s

1 Republic of China Malign Influence Fund, or any  
2 predecessor resource intended for the same or sub-  
3 stantially similar purpose;

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

7 (4) a table identifying the respective allocation  
8 of all programs or activities approved during that  
9 fiscal year across accounts and regional or functional  
10 bureaus.