



House Education Funding Committee

February 3, 2026

HB 1776-FN, requiring higher educational institutions to report the reception of foreign grants, donations, and contracts to the department of education and the general court.

Testimony of Lauren Banker, Senior Director of Government Relations
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The proposed legislation would require higher educational institutions to report the reception of foreign grants, donations, and contracts to the department of education and the general court. We respectfully request that the committee recommend HB 1776 inexpedient to legislate due to several concerns we share.

Currently, at the federal level, Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) requires institutions of higher education that offer a bachelor's degree or higher, or that offer a transfer program of not less than two years that is acceptable for credit towards a bachelor's degree, and receive federal financial assistance to disclose semiannually to the U.S. Department of Education any gifts received from and contracts with a foreign source that, alone or combined, are valued at \$250,000 or more in a calendar year. All such reporting is available here, and searchable by individual institution: <https://www.foreignfundinghighered.gov/>. We believe that this state expanded legislation would require more regular reporting, now on a quarterly basis, which may increase operating and administrative expenses.

Additionally, USNH anticipates that posting the names, addresses, and gift amounts of individual non-US donors, including those of international alumni, may depress giving. We believe that this bill is unnecessary and burdensome at a time when we are working to cut administrative costs and create efficiencies.

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