

the so-called “seven taboos:” universal values; press freedom; civil society; citizens’ rights; criticism of the Party’s past; neoliberal economics; and independence of the judiciary.

All of the “seven taboos” are criticized as “Western ideals.”

These taboos raise the question: Are U.S. colleges and universities compromising their images as bastions of free inquiry and academic freedom in exchange for China’s education dollars?

Some may defend any concessions made as the cost of doing business in an authoritarian state such as China.

Maybe a university decides that it won’t offer a class on human rights in China, maybe they won’t invite a prominent dissident as a fellow or visiting lecturer, maybe they won’t protest when a professor is denied a visa because his or her work is critical of a dictator. Maybe such compromises are rationalized as necessary to not offend a major donor or for the “greater good” of maintaining access.

If U.S. universities are only offering Chinese students and faculty a different name on their diploma or paycheck, is it worth the costs and compromises?

Perry Link, the eminent China scholar, argued during our first hearing, that the slow drip of self-censorship is the most pernicious threat to academic freedom and undermines both the recognized brands of major universities and their credibility.

Self-censorship may be the reason NYU terminated the fellowship of world class human rights activist and hero, Chen Guangcheng. As the NYU faculty said in their letter to the Board of Trustees, the circumstances surrounding the launch of NYU satellite campus in Shanghai and the ending of Chen’s residence created a “public perception, accurate or otherwise, that NYU made commitments in order to operate in China.” Did NYU make any such commitments?

Let the record show that we invited NYU’s President and faculty sixteen times to testify before this committee, without success. We are very pleased that Jeffery Lehman, the Vice-Chancellor of NYU-Shanghai campus, joined us at our recent hearing.

On a personal note, I spent time with Chen when he first came to the United States. Though NYU offered him important sanctuary, he was treated very rudely at times, particularly when it was clear that he would not isolate himself on campus. NYU officials and others worked to cordon off access to Chen and to keep him away from Chinese dissidents and there was a belief, reported by Reuters and the Wall Street Journal, that Chen was too involved with anti-abortion activists, Republicans, and others.

We may never know if NYU experienced “persistent and direct pressure from China” to oust Chen from his NYU fellowship or whether they sought to isolate him in order to keep Chen’s story out of the 2012 Presidential elections as Prof. Jerry Cohen has said in an interview at the time. Certainly there is some interest here as Hillary Clinton spent a whole chapter in her book detailing the events of Chen’s escape and exile in the United States.

Or maybe there wasn’t any pressure at all, just self-censorship to keep in Beijing’s good graces during the final stages of opening the NYU-Shanghai campus.

We are not here to exclusively focus on the sad divorce of Chen Guangcheng and NYU.

But his ousting raises the question: Is it possible to accept lucrative subsidies from the Chinese government, or other dictatorships for that matter, operate campuses on their territory and still preserve academic freedom and the other values that make Americans great?

The agreements they sign with the host government are often kept secret and real information about them can be hard to obtain.

Foreign educational partnerships are important endeavors—for students, collaborative research, cultural understanding, and maybe even for the host country in some sense. The U.S. model of higher education is the world’s best. American faculty, fellowships, and exchange programs are effective global ambassadors. We must all seek to maintain that integrity. It is in the interests of the U.S. to do so, particularly when it comes to China.

Nevertheless, if U.S. colleges and universities are outsourcing academic control, faculty and student oversight, or curriculum to a foreign government can they really be “islands of freedom” in the midst of authoritarian states or dictatorships? Are they places where all students and faculty can enjoy the fundamental freedoms denied them in their own country?

The questions we asked are not abstract. The Chinese government and Communist Party are waging a persistent, intense and escalating campaign to suppress dissent, purge rivals from within the Party, and regain ideological control over the arts, media, and the universities.

This campaign is broader and more extensive than any other in the past twenty years. Targets include human rights defenders, the press, social media and the Internet, civil rights lawyers, Tibetans and Uyghurs, religious groups, NGOs, intellectuals and their students, and government officials, particularly those allied with former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin.

Chinese universities have been targeted as well, the recently issued Communist Party directive “Document 30,” reinforces earlier warnings to purge “Western-inspired notions of media independence, human rights, and criticism of Mao [Zedong].

In a recent speech reported by the New York Times, President Xi urged university leaders to “keep a tight grip on . . . ideological work in higher education . . . never allow singing to a tune contrary to the party center, never allowing eating the Communist Party’s food and then smashing the Communist Party’s cooking pots.

Will anyone at NYU or Ft. Hays St or Johns Hopkins or Duke for that matter—be allowed to smash any cooking pots?

It’s a serious question, because if your campuses are subsidized by the Chinese government, if your joint-educational partnerships are “majority-owned” by the Chinese government, aren’t you eating the Communist Party’s food and then subject to its rules, just like any Chinese university?

There are nine U.S. educational partnerships operating in China. New York University-Shanghai opened its doors to students in September 2013. Three other similar ventures have started since 2013: a Duke University campus in Kunshan, Jiangsu Province; a University of California-Berkeley School of Engineering research facility in the Pudong District of Shanghai; and a Kean University campus in Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province. In addition, since 2006, Fort Hays State University in Kansas, has partnered with Zhengzhou University/

SIAS International School, a U.S.-based educational non-governmental organization, to provide degrees for thousands of Chinese students.

China’s National Plan for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010–2020), issued in July 2010, provided Chinese partners with a strong incentive to enter into such ventures. The plan exhorted Chinese universities to become “world-class,” in part by establishing “international academic cooperation organizations” and setting up research and development bases with “high quality educational and scientific research institutions from overseas.” Among the attractions for U.S. universities entering into such ventures are generous funding from the Chinese government, typically covering all campus construction costs and some or all operating costs; revenue from full fee-paying Chinese students on China-based campuses, who may later become wealthy alumni donors; the potential for a higher profile in China translating into the recruitment of more full fee-paying Chinese students to home campuses in the United States; opportunities for new global research collaborations with Chinese scholars and universities; and, opportunities for American students to study abroad.

I have also initiated a GAO study to review the agreements of both satellite campuses in China and of Confucius Institutes in the U.S. I know some agreements are public, others are not. In fact, some schools made their agreements public after our last hearing. We are looking for complete transparency and will be asking all universities and colleges to make their agreements with the Chinese government public.

We need to know if universities and colleges who are starting satellite programs in China—can be islands of freedom in China or in other parts of the world. We need to know what pressures are being placed on them to compromise fundamental freedoms, and what compromises, if any, were made to gain a small slice of the China educational market.

These are important questions. Can they be handled by the universities, their faculties, and trustees themselves or if there is something the U.S. Congress and or State Department can do to ensure academic freedom, and other fundamental freedoms are protected.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE AS NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 7, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Scoliosis Awareness Month and to reaffirm our commitment to fighting a potentially debilitating medical condition that affects over 7 million Americans and 160,000 Bay State residents.

Each June, National Scoliosis Awareness Month brings together the diverse members of the scoliosis community—from physicians, patients, and families to private businesses committed to raising awareness about this spinal condition. To date, the cause of scoliosis remains unknown but quick diagnosis and early detection allows physicians to monitor the condition and, if necessary, begin treatment before serious complications, including chronic

back pain and impacted heart and lung function would begin.

Approximately one out of every six children diagnosed with scoliosis requires continued treatment, and, in extreme cases, surgery. It is of paramount importance that early detection resources are available to local schools and physicians to ensure that children and their families are both screened and educated about the condition.

Further, while up to three percent of the American population is estimated to have scoliosis, the number of family and friends who are impacted by this condition numbers many millions more. With early detection and proper treatment, patients can live a healthy and active life. National Scoliosis Awareness Month promotes public awareness for this condition—elevating the visibility of scoliosis and empowering individuals whose lives have been touched by this condition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month by thanking organizations such as the National Scoliosis Foundation and the Scoliosis Research Society, as well as their many supporters, for their tireless efforts in raising awareness of scoliosis and promoting critical research on this condition.

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CELEBRATING CAPE VERDEAN  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 7, 2015*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of independence for the Republic of Cape Verde, or Cabo Verde, which was celebrated on Sunday, July 5th.

Uninhabited until its discovery by the Portuguese in the 15th century, Cape Verde grew into a thriving center of commerce by the time it achieved independence in 1975.

Today, the Republic of Cape Verde is a model democracy and friend to the United States.

My home state of Rhode Island is home to one of the largest Cape Verdean-American populations in the United States—with nearly 20,000 men, women, and children calling Rhode Island home today.

It is a privilege to serve on their behalf and represent their interests before Congress today.

I have also been fortunate to host Cape Verdean Prime Minister Jose Maria Neves for official visits to Rhode Island's First Congressional District and to discuss the work we can do together to strengthen the Cape Verdean community living in Rhode Island today.

I extend my best wishes to the people of Cape Verde for a joyous celebration of the 40th anniversary of their independence this month.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
SUNGLASSES DAY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 7, 2015*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Sunglasses Day and to honor the sunglass manufacturers and suppliers throughout my Dallas Congressional District, the State of Texas and around the country. Texas and the Dallas area are home to a variety of optical industry leaders including 24 optical laboratories that manufacture prescription sun wear, 3 lens manufacturers that supply UV filtering lenses, and 6 sun wear frame suppliers. As a physician, I commend the sunglass industry and their trade association The Vision Council (TVC) for ongoing outreach campaigns to educate consumers regarding the damaging effects of ultraviolet (UV) rays to the eye and healthy vision.

In the case of eye protection, what you don't know can hurt you. When it comes to the human eye and the sun's rays, it's what we can't see that matters most. UV radiation that reaches the earth's surface, made up of two types of invisible rays, UVA and UVB, endangers an unprotected eye. The effects of long-term exposure can include cataracts, macular degeneration, abnormal growths on the eye's surface and even cancer of the eye. While everyone should shield their eyes from UV rays, certain risk factors like age and eye color increase an individual's vulnerability to UV related eye disorders. Where you live and travel can also make a big difference in the level of UV exposure. Since UV damage can't be reversed, prevention through protection is key.

Later this summer, sunglass manufacturers and distributors from my home district in Texas and The Vision Council (TVC) will be convening a Capitol Hill briefing on the topic of UV danger and protecting your eye health. I encourage my colleagues to attend and applaud the sunglass community and The Vision Council for their leadership in promoting healthy vision.

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116TH BIRTHDAY OF MS.  
SUSANNAH MUSHATT JONES

**HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 7, 2015*

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 116th birthday of Ms. Susannah Mushatt Jones, who is affectionately called Miss Susie. Confirmed by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living person, she is a beloved member of the Brooklyn community I am proud to represent in Congress. In recognition of her birthday, Miss Susie will be honored on July 7, 2015 at the Vandalia Senior Center in Brooklyn, NY. We revel not just the years since her birth, but the history she has witnessed in three separate centuries. From experiencing segregation in the South to being a first-hand witness of the Civil Rights movement in New York, we commemorate her birthday with awe and inspiration.

Miss Susie was born into a large, loving family on July 6, 1899 in Lowndes County,

Alabama as the third of eleven children. In 1923 she moved to New York as part of the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to cities in the North, Midwest, and West. Miss Susie dedicated her professional pursuits to children, first as a school teacher and then as a childcare provider. At one point, she moved to Hollywood to work for a family in the film industry. During her time on the west coast, she enjoyed socializing with movie stars and attending movie premieres. She fondly remembers meeting Ronald Reagan, Clark Gable, and Cary Grant.

Family has always surrounded Miss Susie: she takes great delight in being an aunt to over 100 nieces and nephews. Throughout her life, she has brightened many lives with her positive attitude and infectious laugh. She resides in Vandalia Houses and was an active member of the Vandalia Houses Senior Center tenant patrol through her 100th birthday. Miss Susie credits her healthy lifestyle free of smoking and drinking for her longevity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Ms. Susannah Mushatt Jones on her 116th birthday.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF CABO VERDE'S  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 7, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the historic 40th Anniversary of Cabo Verde independence.

The history of Cabo Verde is as intricate and vibrant as the people themselves. First founded by the adventuresome European explorers of the fifteenth century, Cabo Verde became a critical trading post on the route from the coasts of Africa and bustling Mediterranean ports to the newly discovered lands across the Atlantic. The diverse residents of Cabo Verde lived under Portuguese rule until the establishment of a transitional government and first election of a National Assembly in 1975. To date, July 5 remains celebrated by the residents of Cabo Verde and their growing diaspora overseas as a day of independence.

I have the privilege of representing communities in Southeastern Massachusetts that boast strong ties to Cabo Verde and hosts the highest concentration of Cabo Verdean-Americans in the United States. The Cities of New Bedford and Fall River, in addition to Brockton and Boston, are some of the largest communities of Cabo Verdean descent in the country.

The Cabo Verdean community has played an integral role in molding the rich culture of Massachusetts as we know it today. This influence dates back to the height of the whaling industry in the 18th century, during which time Cabo Verdeans were universally respected for their skills as seamen and whale hunters—recognized across the world as honest, hard workers. They continue to uphold that reputation in Massachusetts, where many Cabo Verdean-Americans continue to work in the historic fishing and cranberry industries.

Today, the scenic archipelago of Cabo Verde enjoys political stability, democratic rule and substantial economic growth.