

By: Representative McAlindon

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO URGE ARKANSAS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO
RELOCATE CHINESE-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FROM MAINLAND
CHINA TO TAIWAN.

Subtitle

TO URGE ARKANSAS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION TO RELOCATE CHINESE-LANGUAGE
PROGRAMS FROM MAINLAND CHINA TO TAIWAN.

WHEREAS, students benefit enormously from overseas educational programs that promote cultural and language learning and these benefits are typically realized by the students' home countries; and

WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is an American top-three trading partner and is a global economic and strategic power; and

WHEREAS, English-language education is compulsory for students in the PRC while comparatively few United States students study Chinese languages either domestically or overseas; and

WHEREAS, many United States institutions of higher education have foreign language and culture programs in the PRC; and

WHEREAS, the number of United States students studying Chinese languages in China has declined steadily since 2011; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has developed the educational infrastructure to accommodate and enlarge foreign exchange programs, including the Ministry of



Education's (MOE) establishment of the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship in 2005 and the Taiwan Scholarship Program in 2004, to encourage foreign students to study Mandarin or pursue their Chinese language degree studies; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese universities are rising in the QS World University Rankings, an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds; and

WHEREAS, standard Mandarin has been designated by the United States Government as a critical-need language to maintain United States national security, making it more important now than ever for Americans to study Mandarin; and

WHEREAS, standard Mandarin is an official language of both the PRC and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan launched the Taiwan-United States Education Initiative in December 2020 in order to expand access to Mandarin and English language instruction between our two democracies and to highlight Taiwan's potential to provide Mandarin language instruction to American students and students around the world; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Taiwan-United States Education Initiative, Taiwan's Overseas Community Affairs Council has already opened Taiwan Centers for Mandarin Learning across the United States to provide Chinese language courses for American adults; and

WHEREAS, Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Taiwan University (NTU), which will enable Northwestern University undergraduates to travel to NTU for language instruction in accordance with the Taiwan-United States Education Initiative; and

WHEREAS, universities in the United States have begun to identify operational challenges and quality concerns with language programs in the PRC, including lack of proper facilities and the rise of unfriendly sentiment

toward American institutions; and

WHEREAS, Harvard University decided in October 2021 to relocate their highly-regarded Chinese language program from Beijing Language and Culture University in Beijing, China, to National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan, in part due to what university officials described as “a perceived lack of friendliness” on the part of their counterparts at the Beijing institution; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan’s economic and strategic partnership with the United States is strengthening in contrast to the increasing strains in United States-China relations; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a likeminded, liberal democracy that adheres to free market principles and is among America’s most important economic and strategic partners in the Asia-Pacific,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,

THAT the House of Representatives of the State of Arkansas encourages institutions of higher education to relocate Chinese language and cultural programs from the PRC to Taiwan to advance United States national security interests, strengthen ties between our two democracies, and promote a positive learning environment to enhance comprehensive Mandarin language education for American students.