

# United States Senate

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20451

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Bessent:

I write urging the Departments of State and Treasury to investigate reports of potential sanctions violations at Harvard University. A recent report suggests that Harvard is engaging in prohibited behavior with Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC), a Chinese state-owned organization that implements China's genocidal and forced labor policies in the Uyghur region.

According to a recent business intelligence firm report, Harvard renamed its Public Health School the "Harvard T. Chan School for Public Health" after receiving a \$350 million donation from the Chan family and its Morningside Foundation in 2014, which has significant ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).<sup>1</sup> Harvard engages in activities that glorify China's Cultural Revolution and is linked to the China's Thousand Talents Program.<sup>2</sup> Most troublingly is the report that Harvard trained XPCC personnel and other senior Chinese officials on healthcare financing.

In 2020, the Trump Administration imposed human rights sanctions on XPCC under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act for XPCC's involvement in severe human rights abuses. The Act prohibits any contribution of funds, goods, and services, to XPCC.<sup>3</sup> Harvard University's actions appear to violate these sanctions.

As the Trump Administration rightfully acknowledges, American universities' unique ability to foster intellectual creativity and scholarly rigor are driving factors in our nation's success. However, these values are contrary to the ideological capture sought by the CCP. I respectfully

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<sup>1</sup> *Strategy Risks*. "Beijing Exercises Strong Influence Over Multiple Areas of Harvard University," April 22, 2025

<sup>2</sup> Raleigh, Helen. "Harvard Cannot Claim to Champion Academic Freedom While Yielding to the CCP," *The Federalist*. 28 April 2025

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Treasury, "Treasury Sanctions Chinese Entity and Officials Pursuant to Global Magnitsky Human Rights Executive Order" July 31, 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1073>

ask that your departments investigate these reports of potential sanctions violations by the Harvard T. Chan School of Public Health in order to thwart the CCP's influence on Harvard's campus.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and the Trump Administration's commitment to combat CCP influence at our institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cotton". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Tom" and the last name "Cotton" written in a cursive-like script.

Tom Cotton  
United States Senator