

AUGUST 27, 2026

RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–39
TEXT OF H.R. 4795, THE PROTECT ECONOMIC
AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM ACT OF 2026

**[Showing the text of H.R. 4795, as reported by the Committee
on Education and Workforce]**

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protect Economic and
3 Academic Freedom Act of 2026”.

4 SEC. 2. INELIGIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-
5 CATION PARTICIPATING IN CERTAIN NON-
6 EXPRESSIVE COMMERCIAL BOYCOTTS.

7 Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
8 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(30)(A) The institution will not engage in a
11 nonexpressive commercial boycott of a major stra-
12 tegic partner of the United States.

13 “(B) For purposes of this paragraph:

14 “(i) The term ‘major strategic partner’
15 means, with respect to the United States—

16 “(I) a country described in section 4
17 of Public Law 113–296; or

1 “(II) an entity licensed or regulated
2 by, or organized under the laws of, such a
3 country.

4 “(ii) The term ‘nonexpressive commercial
5 boycott of a major strategic partner’—

6 “(I) means a commercial action (in-
7 cluding engaging in refusals to deal and
8 terminating business activities) that—

9 “(aa) is intended to limit com-
10 mercial relations with a major stra-
11 tegic partner; and

12 “(bb) is not based on a valid
13 business reason; and

14 “(II) does not include actions de-
15 scribed in regulations issued to provide for
16 the exceptions described in section
17 1773(a)(2) of the Anti-Boycott Act of
18 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4842(a)(2)).”.

19 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR TITLE VI FUNDS.**

20 Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
21 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
22 the following new sections:

23 **“SEC. 639. INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATIONS.**

24 “(a) ANNUAL REQUIREMENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL
25 ELIGIBILITY.—Not later than July 31 of each calendar

1 year beginning on or after the date of enactment of the
2 Protect Economic and Academic Freedom Act of 2026,
3 an institution of higher education participating or apply-
4 ing to participate in any program under this title shall
5 submit to the Secretary the certification required under
6 subsection (b). An institution that does not submit such
7 certification by July 31 of a calendar year shall be ineli-
8 gible to receive any funds under this title in the first fiscal
9 year that begins after such July 31, including any funds
10 under this title that would otherwise have been available
11 to the institution in such fiscal year for a grant awarded
12 during a previous fiscal year.

13 “(b) CERTIFICATION.—An institution shall certify to
14 the Secretary that, for the period beginning on the date
15 of such certification and ending on July 31 of the fol-
16 lowing year, the institution will—

17 “(1) permit students and faculty of the certi-
18 fying institution to participate in academic pro-
19 grams, including conferences, teaching exchanges,
20 cultural exchanges, study abroad programs, joint re-
21 search, and other collaborative educational activities,
22 in a major strategic partner (as defined in section
23 487(a)(30)) of the United States in the same man-
24 ner, and under the same terms and conditions, as
25 students and faculty of the institution are permitted

1 to participate in academic programs in other foreign
2 countries; and

3 “(2) permit students and faculty of postsec-
4 ondary educational institutions in such a major stra-
5 tegic partner to participate in academic programs of-
6 fered by the certifying institution, including con-
7 ferences, teaching exchanges, cultural exchanges,
8 study abroad programs, joint research, and other
9 collaborative educational activities, in the same man-
10 ner, and under the same terms and conditions, as
11 students and faculty of other foreign postsecondary
12 educational institutions that are not in such a major
13 strategic partner.

14 **“SEC. 639A. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

15 “It is the sense of Congress that limitations on coop-
16 erative efforts by institutions of higher education, con-
17 sortia of such institutions, or partnerships between non-
18 profit educational organizations and institutions of higher
19 education with a major strategic partner (as defined in
20 section 487(a)(30)) of the United States do not serve the
21 security, stability, and economic vitality of the United
22 States.”.

