



# A BIPARTISAN MEASURE TO ROOT OUT FOREIGN CORRUPTIVE INFLUENCE IN U.S. POLICY AND POLITICS PASS THE FIGHTING FOREIGN INFLUENCE ACT

## SUMMARY

Over the past decade, **China, Russia, and other kleptocratic governments** have devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to [delegitimizing and destabilizing democracies](#) around the world—including in the United States—in order to grow their economic and geopolitical influence. Without specific, targeted measures to expose and prevent these efforts in the U.S., America’s adversaries will continue to influence our political and policy-making processes, inject doubts into the legitimacy of our elections and elected leaders, create infirmities in our national defense, and weaken the foundation of American global leadership.

The term **foreign corruptive influence** describes

the corrosive efforts to undermine democracy by authoritarian, kleptocratic, or otherwise corrupt regimes. As laid out in the U.S. government’s [national security study memorandum](#) designating the fight against corruption as a core national security interest, corruption “threatens United States national security, economic equity, global anti-poverty and development efforts, and democracy itself” and “provides authoritarian leaders a means to undermine democracies worldwide.” The 2021 [U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption](#) similarly finds that “authoritarian regimes and their proxies have been shown to....exploit[t] the international financial system to... influence elections and policies in democratic states.”

## EXAMPLES OF THE PROBLEM

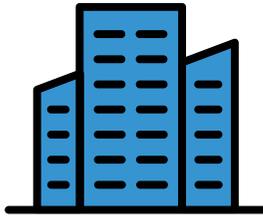


[China](#) has employed foreign corruptive influence to push domestic and foreign policies of countries around the world to their liking. As “U.S. political and thought leaders are just beginning to understand the problem,” countries such as Canada, New Zealand, and Australia have already been on the [receiving ends](#) of Chinese-sponsored efforts to corrupt their politicians, think tanks, and businesses.

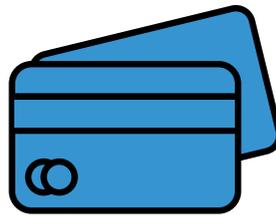


At the same time, [Russian interference](#) in the 2016 U.S. presidential election remains perhaps the most infamous and sobering reminder of how the stability of the world’s most influential democracy depends on our ability to stop foreign corruptive influence campaigns from sowing distrust in our elections.

Authoritarian, kleptocratic, and otherwise corrupt regimes can currently influence U.S. policy and undermine U.S. national security and self-governance by exploiting gaps in our laws that permit them to:



Provide funding to U.S. nonprofit charitable organizations (501(c)(3) organizations) without sufficient transparency of those [foreign funds](#);



Use online credit card contributions to make [unlawful foreign contributions](#) to U.S. political committees; and



Hire as [lobbyists](#) former U.S. lawmakers, senior-level government appointees, and high-ranking military officers, who can in turn [collect, bundle, and deliver](#) unlimited campaign contributions to candidates for federal office.

## HOW THE FIGHTING FOREIGN INFLUENCE ACT WOULD REDUCE FOREIGN CORRUPTIVE INFLUENCE

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The Fighting Foreign Influence Act is a bipartisan measure that would protect our political institutions against foreign corruptive influence and help restore faith in the U.S. political system by:

- 1.** Requiring greater transparency of funding given by foreign sources to U.S. nonprofits;
- 2.** Prohibiting federal lawmakers, senior-level government appointees, and high-ranking military officers from lobbying for foreign governments, foreign political parties, and other foreign entities after they leave government;
- 3.** Prohibiting lobbyists for foreign governments or foreign political parties from bundling and delivering campaign contributions to candidates for federal office; and
- 4.** Requiring baseline verification measures for online credit card contributions to political committees in order to help prevent unlawful foreign contributions.

**Corruptive foreign influence has the power to destroy public faith in our democracy.** The Fighting Foreign Influence Act provides a strong, bipartisan path forward for securing American democracy from these threats.