MODEL LEGISLATION – Action to Halt the Expansion of Neo-Authoritarian Influence (ATHENAI) Act of 2020

[HOUSE/SENATE] BILL NO. _____

A BILL to amend the Code of [STATE] by adding a section numbered _____, relating to cultural institutes funded or operated by entities affiliated with the Chinese Government or the Chinese Communist Party.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of [STATE]:

1. That the Code of [STATE] is amended by adding a section numbered _____ as follows:

§23.1-3300. Cultural Institutes Affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party.

A) No institution of higher education or other educational institution which enters a contract or agreement with or receives funding from a cultural or educational institute directly or indirectly funded or operated by the Government of the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, or any entity affiliated therewith, including but not limited to the Ministry of Education Center for Language Education and Cooperation (formerly “Hanban” or “the Office of Chinese Language Council International”), and the Chinese International Education Foundation after the passage of this bill, or renews such a contract or agreement after January 1, 2021, shall be eligible to receive funds from the Department of Education, not including funds which are provided directly to students.

B) Institutions of higher education and other educational institutions which entered a contract or agreement with any cultural or educational institute affiliated with the Chinese Government or the Chinese Communist Party prior to the passage of this bill shall be eligible to continue to receive funds from the Department of Education, provided that they sever ties to such institute prior to January 1, 2021.