

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 222**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS  
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Space, DiMaio, Peterson, Auth, Rooney, Howarth and  
Webber**

**SYNOPSIS**

Opposes sale of Westminster Choir College to Chinese government-owned company Beijing Kaiwen Education Technology.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/17/2019)**

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** opposing the sale of Westminster  
2 Choir College to Beijing Kaiwen Education Technology.  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, Believing that a choir of volunteer singers could be trained  
5 to perform on a professional level, John Finley Williamson  
6 established the Westminster Choir in 1920 at the Westminster  
7 Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio; and  
8 **WHEREAS**, In 1929, the Westminster Choir College was established at  
9 Ithaca College, and three years later in 1932 the choir college  
10 relocated to Princeton, New Jersey; and  
11 **WHEREAS**, For nearly 100 years, Westminster Choir College has been  
12 one of the nation's premier academic institutions for advanced  
13 musical studies, preparing men and women for careers as  
14 performers and as music leaders in schools, universities, churches,  
15 and professional and community organizations; and  
16 **WHEREAS**, Over the years the small college struggled to remain  
17 solvent, and in 1992 it merged with Rider University. The  
18 partnership continued for almost 26 years, until in 2016, Rider  
19 University President Gregory Dell'Omo announced that Rider was  
20 seeking to sell Westminster; and  
21 **WHEREAS**, On June 21, 2018, the Rider University Board of Trustees  
22 announced that it had signed a purchase and sale agreement for the  
23 transfer of the choir college to a Chinese company, Beijing Kaiwen  
24 Education Technology (Kaiwen Education); and  
25 **WHEREAS**, Prior to when it began operation in January 2018, Kaiwen  
26 Education was known as Jiangsu Zhongtai Bridge Steel Structure  
27 Company (Jiangsu). It has been alleged in a lawsuit brought to  
28 prevent the sale of Westminster that the steel company is a  
29 manufacturer of components of Chinese naval vessels and is a  
30 government-owned defense contractor for China's military; and  
31 **WHEREAS**, It has been speculated that Jiangsu changed its name to  
32 Kaiwen Education to create the appearance that it is an educational  
33 entity in order to justify its acquisition of the choir college; and  
34 **WHEREAS**, Although often thought of as primarily a college town  
35 because of its association with Princeton University, Princeton is  
36 home to many world-renowned research centers in high technology,  
37 defense, and cyber-space and is a center of studies for the United  
38 States intelligence community; and  
39 **WHEREAS**, Acclaimed and preeminent scientists and researchers in  
40 various fields from around the world have chosen Princeton as a  
41 place to live and work, a tradition famously highlighted by Albert  
42 Einstein's decision to flee Nazi Germany for Princeton; and  
43 **WHEREAS**, Given that Kaiwen Education, formerly a steel company,  
44 does not have a history in higher education, particularly  
45 professional music training, and with the multitude of world-class  
46 scientists, researchers, and institutions located in Princeton, it  
47 appears that the Chinese government may be using the guise of  
48 academia to infiltrate the choir college for nefarious purposes,

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1 including the collection of United States intelligence and  
2 intellectual property theft; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Nothing is more vital than the safety and security of the  
4 citizens of New Jersey and the nation, and it is essential that every  
5 possible precaution is taken to ensure that a Chinese government-  
6 owned company does not exploit the openness of the world of  
7 academia to establish a foothold in our open and free society for  
8 illicit activities; now, therefore,

9  
10 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
11 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

12

13 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey opposes the sale  
14 of Westminster Choir College by Rider University to Beijing  
15 Kaiwen Education Technology because the proposed sale of the  
16 choir college to a Chinese government-owned company could  
17 jeopardize the security of United States citizens.

18

19 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
20 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
21 Secretary of the Senate to the President of Rider University and to  
22 each governing board member of Rider University.

23

24

25 STATEMENT

26

27 This concurrent resolution opposes the sale of Westminster Choir  
28 College by Rider University to Beijing Kaiwen Education  
29 Technology (Kaiwen Education) because the proposed sale of the  
30 choir college to a Chinese government-owned company could  
31 jeopardize the security of United States citizens.

32 On June 21, 2018, the Rider University Board of Trustees  
33 announced that it had signed a purchase and sale agreement for the  
34 transfer of the choir college to Kaiwen Education. Prior to when it  
35 began operation in January 2018, Kaiwen Education was known as  
36 Jiangsu Zhongtai Bridge Steel Structure Company, a government-  
37 owned Chinese defense contractor. The steel company's main forms  
38 of business included the fabrication of large-scale bridge structures,  
39 heavy steel sections of power plants, and construction of ship  
40 blocks. Given that Kaiwen Education, formerly a steel company,  
41 does not have a history in higher education, particularly  
42 professional music training, and with the multitude of world-class  
43 scientists, researchers, and institutions located in Princeton, it  
44 appears that the Chinese government may be using the guise of  
45 academia to infiltrate the choir college for nefarious purposes,  
46 including the collection of United States intelligence and  
47 intellectual property theft.