

U.S. Rep. Gallagher: Wisconsin Republicans get UW System to ban TikTok on UW System devices

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- As [first reported by WISN](#), Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and the Wisconsin Republican delegation sent a letter to UW System President Jay Rothman urging him to ban TikTok from UW System devices and block it from UW System Wi-Fi and wired networks.

In part, **the lawmakers wrote**, *“TikTok is controlled by Chinese parent ByteDance, which is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP can use TikTok to gain access to U.S. user data and covertly manipulate TikTok’s algorithm to control the information U.S. users receive and the news they read. Numerous members of the Biden Administration have acknowledged that TikTok poses a serious national security threat, including FBI Director Chris Wray, CIA Director Bill Burns, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, and ODNI Director Avril Haines...Given well-documented attempts by CCP-affiliated entities to influence American universities, it is especially important that we minimize the reach of TikTok on our campuses.”*

Following the letter, the UW system [announced via a spokesman](#) that it would follow part of the lawmakers’ request and restrict TikTok from UW System-owned devices.

Click [HERE](#) to see the letter and full list of signers, or read the text below.

Dear President Rothman,

Earlier this month, we were pleased to see Governor Tony Evers respond to our call to ban TikTok on state-issued devices. However, we were disappointed that this ban did not extend to University of Wisconsin System (UW System) devices. Given the

widespread recognition that TikTok poses a national security threat, we urge you to ban TikTok from UW System devices and block it from UW System Wi-Fi and wired networks.

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Given well-documented attempts by CCP-affiliated entities to influence American universities, it is especially important that we minimize the reach of TikTok on our campuses. Please respond indicating whether you intend to ban TikTok from UW System devices and block it from UW System Wi-Fi and wired networks. If you do not intend to take these steps, please explain the reasoning for your decisions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this vital national security matter.