

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Jackson Lee, Yarmuth, Lee, Moulton, Higgins, DelBene, Wasserman Schultz, Boyle, Khanna, Jayapal, and Schakowsky

Fully Fund the Investigation of Russian Interference in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election

1. At the end of Title V, add the following:

“POLICY STATEMENT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN THE 2016 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

- (1) Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, and foreign interference in them undermines the public trust and casts doubt on the legitimacy of our government.
- (2) The country's intelligence agencies all agree that Russia launched a campaign to undermine the 2016 U.S. presidential election, which included cyber-attacks, dissemination of false information, and other intelligence operations to malign Secretary Hillary Clinton and increase the odds of a Donald Trump presidency.
- (3) Members of the Trump campaign had repeated contact with Russian government officials and oligarchs and then failed to report this contact in testimony to Congress and in security clearance applications. One such meeting reportedly included a request for a back-channel line of communications with the Russian government using Russian facilities, which would preclude U.S. government oversight. Another involved a Kremlin-linked Russian lawyer and a former Soviet counterintelligence officer under the assumption that they would provide politically damaging information about Secretary Hillary Clinton as part of the Russian government's effort to support the Trump campaign.
- (4) Under the direction of Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey, the FBI was investigating whether members of President Trump's campaign colluded with Russia to influence the election.

- (5) On May 9, 2017, President Trump fired FBI Director James B. Comey and then made statements suggesting his dismissal was to stop the Russia investigation.
- (6) On May 17, 2017, the Department of Justice announced the appointment of former FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III to serve as Special Counsel to investigate Russian interference into the 2016 presidential election and any coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the Trump campaign. Mueller, a Republican, is the second longest serving FBI director having served first under President Bush and then President Obama. He is widely respected and the Senate unanimously approved him as FBI director by a vote of 98-0 after President Bush appointed him.
- (7) In early October 2017, former Trump campaign official George Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts.
- (8) On October 30, 2017, President Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and top campaign official Rick Gates were indicted on 12 counts, including money laundering and other charges. And on February 22, 2018, a Virginia grand jury indicted them on 32 counts involving tax, financial, and bank fraud. On February 23, 2018 Rick Gates pleaded guilty to financial fraud and lying to investigators.
- (9) On December 1, 2017, President Trump's former national security advisor Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.
- (10) On February 16, 2018, Special Counsel Mueller charged 13 Russian individuals and three Russian companies with conspiring to tamper with the 2016 elections.
- (11) In May 2018, news outlets reported that President Trump's attorney and self-described "fixer" Michael Cohen had received hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments from a company affiliated with a Russian oligarch connected to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Cohen reportedly deposited those payments into the account of a shell company he created that he also used to make hush payments on behalf of then-candidate Donald Trump.
- (12) On June 8, 2018, Special Counsel Mueller filed more criminal charges against Paul Manafort for witness tampering and added Konstantin Kilimnik, a longtime business associate of Manafort and a Russian citizen with ties to Russian intelligence, as a second defendant in the case.
- (13) Despite the unanimity of our intelligence agencies' conclusions about Russia's involvement in subverting our elections, the guilty pleas, and the strong evidence of crimes having been committed, there have been attempts to defund the investigation. One such attempt involved an amendment to

eliminate the Special Counsel's salary as part of the 2018 omnibus appropriations bill.

(b) POLICY ON THE INVESTIGATION OF RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN THE 2016 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. — It is the policy of the resolution that to restore confidence in our government, to preserve the sanctity of our electoral process, and to maintain the rule of law, Congress must ensure adequate funding for the Special Counsel appointed by the Department of Justice so that he can perform without interference a thorough and nonpartisan investigation of Russia's campaign to affect the 2016 U.S. presidential election and any individuals in the United States that may have conspired in those efforts."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution supports full funding of the Special Counsel investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election and any individuals in the United States who may have conspired in those efforts. Such interference threatens to undermine public confidence in our government and to weaken our standing in the world. Uncovering the extent of Russian interference in our election is the first step in restoring the public's trust and preventing our adversaries from meddling in our elections in the future.