

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

MARKUP HEARING STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF
H.RES. 203

**“RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE
PRESIDENT AND DIRECTING THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL TO TRANSMIT CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO
CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES”**



MARCH 29, 2017

- I move to strike the last word and support H. Res. 203 which is a “Resolution of inquiry requesting the President, and directing the Attorney General, to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to certain communications by the President of the United States.”

- The resolution directs the White House and the Department of Justice to provide the House with information related to President Donald J. Trump's allegation made on March 4, 2017, claiming via Twitter that "President Obama was tapping my phones in October, just prior to Election!"
- He directed the statement at President Obama personally: "How low has President Obama gone to tap [sic] my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!"
- There is no evidence to support this claim and there is bipartisan consensus in Congress that the President's "wiretap" claim is unfounded.
- The accusation has been denied by former President Obama; former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI); Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; and Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.
- In recent testimony, FBI Director James Comey said there is "no information" to back the President's charge.
- Nevertheless, the White House stands by the President's claim.
- As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump displayed a remarkable proclivity for false and misleading statements.
- That behavior has continued into his presidency.

- According to one report, in the first two months President Trump has been in office, he has made 317 false or misleading claims.
- Out of the 67 days President Trump has occupied the White House, there have been only three days so far without his making a false statement on record.
- Some of these claims stand out—both as odd preoccupations for a sitting president, and as comments that diverge from easily confirmable facts.
- In the days after the election, President Trump claimed: “In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.”
- He has repeated this claim many times. It is demonstrably untrue. President Trump received 304 votes in the Electoral College.
- In 2012, President Obama received 332 electoral votes. In 2008, President Obama won with 365 electoral votes.
- Presented with this information in a recent press conference, President Trump suggested, “[w]ell, I’m talking about Republican.”¹⁸⁰ When told that President George H. W. Bush won with 426 electoral votes, President Trump demurred: “[w]ell, no, I was told—I was given that information.
- I don’t know. I was just given. We had a very, very big margin.”

- The President declined to answer a follow-up question: “why should Americans trust you...when you’re providing information that’s fake?”
- Since taking office, President Trump has also repeated the claim he would have won the popular vote but for millions of illegal votes.
- In a televised interview, he suggested that, out of the 3 to 5 million illegal votes cast, “none of ‘em come to me. None of ‘em come to me. They would all be for the other side.”
- There is no evidence whatsoever to support the claim that millions of people voted illegally in the recent election—let alone that each of those millions of votes were cast for Secretary Hillary Clinton.
- Several senior Republicans—including Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC)—have urged the President to stop repeating the baseless theory.
- Nevertheless, according to the White House, the President “believes what he believes.”
- After repeated debunking, these claims merely undermine the credibility of the Trump Administration.
- Other claims have the potential to do real and lasting damage to our national security.
- H. Res. 203 gives the Committee an opportunity to hold President Trump accountable for his “wiretapping” claim.

- Unless the burden is placed on the President to produce evidence to support his accusation, it seems unlikely that the White House will acknowledge the increasingly obvious truth: **President Trump's claim is simply false.**
- The Majority has a decision to make: support the resolution, and help the House get to the truth of the President's accusation, or block it, and help the President continue perpetuate an outright falsehood.
- For these, reasons I urge my colleagues to join me in strong support of H.Res. 203, the "Resolution of Inquiry Requesting the President and Directing the Attorney General to transmit respectively, certain communications by the President of the United States."
- Thank you. I yield back the remainder of my time.