

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 759
OFFERED BY MR. MCCAUL OF TEXAS

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on October 7, 2016, the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a joint statement, which concluded that the intelligence community of the United States was “confident that the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of e-mails from U.S. persons and institutions, including from U.S. political organizations” and that “these thefts and disclosures are intended to interfere with the U.S. election process”;

Whereas, on January 6, 2017, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, on behalf of all 17 intelligence agencies, released an unclassified report entitled “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections”, which included analysis by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Security Agency, that assessed with high confidence that “Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. Presidential election”;

Whereas the unclassified report from the intelligence community found that Russian efforts to influence the 2016 United States Presidential election are indicative of “Moscow’s longstanding desire to undermine the U.S.-led liberal democratic order, the promotion of which Putin

and other senior Russian leaders view as a threat to Russia and Putin's regime”;

Whereas the unclassified report from the intelligence community warned that “Moscow will apply lessons learned from its campaign aimed at the U.S. Presidential election to future influence efforts in the United States and worldwide, including against U.S. allies and their election processes”;

Whereas, on August 2, 2018, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Christopher A. Wray, asserted, “as I have said consistently, Russia attempted to interfere with the last election and continues to engage in malign influence operations to this day”;

Whereas the Trump administration has sanctioned at least 40 Russian individuals and entities for activities related to United States election interference, including the Internet Research Agency (IRA) – a troll farm that led the effort to spread disinformation around the 2016 Presidential election and 2018 midterm elections – and its financial backer Yevgeny Prigozhin;

Whereas the Trump administration ordered a cyberattack against the IRA on the night of the United States 2018 midterm elections, preventing its efforts to spread disinformation as the American people went to the polls;

Whereas, on December 10, 2019, during a joint press conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated “The Trump administration will always work to protect the integrity of our elections” and “should Russia or any foreign actor take steps to undermine our democratic processes, we will take action in response”;

Whereas, on July 20, 2020, the head of the National Security Agency and United States Cyber Command, General Paul Nakasone, stated, “Our number 1 objective is safe, secure, and legitimate 2020 elections” and underscored that the United States is “going to act when we see adversaries attempting to interfere in our elections”;

Whereas, on July 24, 2020, the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, released a statement warning that Russia, China, and Iran are the primary threats to the United States electoral process;

Whereas the statement asserts that “Russia’s persistent objective is to weaken the United States and diminish our global role. Using a range of efforts, including internet trolls and other proxies, Russia continues to spread disinformation in the U.S. that is designed to undermine confidence in our democratic process and denigrate what it sees as an anti-Russia ‘establishment’ in America”;

Whereas the statement also asserts that “China is expanding its influence efforts to shape the policy environment in the United States, pressure political figures it views as opposed to China’s interests, and counter criticism of China,” recognizing that “its efforts might affect the Presidential race”;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has a documented history of interference in United States elections which has led to numerous criminal convictions, notably the 1996 campaign finance controversy commonly known as “Chinagate”, wherein individuals including Johnny Chung were discovered to have attempted to influence United States election results under the direction of CCP intelligence officials; and

Whereas the CCP explicitly considers deeply-held American values including constitutional democracy to be a threat to its national security, as established in the “Communiqué on the Current State of the Ideological Sphere”, an April 22, 2013, notice from the CCP’s Central Committee more commonly known as “Document 9”: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns ongoing disinformation cam-
3 paigns and efforts to undermine freedom, democ-
4 racy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections by
5 Russia, China, and other state and non-state actors;

6 (2) calls on the Trump administration to con-
7 tinue its whole-of-government approach to ensure
8 the integrity of the 2020 United States elections and
9 to prevent Russian or other foreign influence cam-
10 paigns from threatening our democracy;

11 (3) reaffirms that interference in United States
12 elections or domestic affairs by Russia or any other
13 state or non-state actor is unacceptable and must be
14 met with swift and serious consequences;

15 (4) urges the Office of the Director of National
16 Intelligence to continue to release public statements
17 that update the American people and other key

1 stakeholders on foreign threats to the 2020 United
2 States elections;

3 (5) supports the conclusions of United States
4 intelligence agencies that the Government of Russian
5 President Vladimir Putin interfered in the 2016
6 United States Presidential elections; and

7 (6) reaffirms its support for the Government
8 and people of Ukraine in their fight against Russian
9 aggression and interference.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution express-
ing that it is the sense of the House of Representatives
that any interference in the 2020 United States elections
by Russia or any other state or non-state actor is unac-
ceptable and must be met with serious consequences.”.

