



**TRUMAN NATIONAL
SECURITY PROJECT**

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29 January 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2132 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
1504 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins:

Truman National Security Project is a nationwide, membership organization of policy professionals, political leaders, veterans, and frontline civilians who advocate for a strong, smart, and progressive vision of American leadership in the world. On behalf of Truman Project, I write to you today in favor of H.R. 1, also known as the For the People Act.

As a generation of leaders who came into our careers through the post-9/11 landscape, the Truman community has a whole-of-government approach to national security. While military hardware and readiness are essential to our being safe at home and a leader in the world, we recognize that having a functioning and transparent democracy is equally important—both for crafting policy outcomes that make us safe and ensuring that we set a strong moral example for our allies and partners abroad.

Truman understands H.R. 1 as an essential piece of legislation because American democracy is in disrepair. From the pervasive influence of money in politics to regressive policies designed to disenfranchise specific groups of voters, we face a crisis that requires urgent attention. Moreover, there must be no mistake that this crisis has implications for our national security.

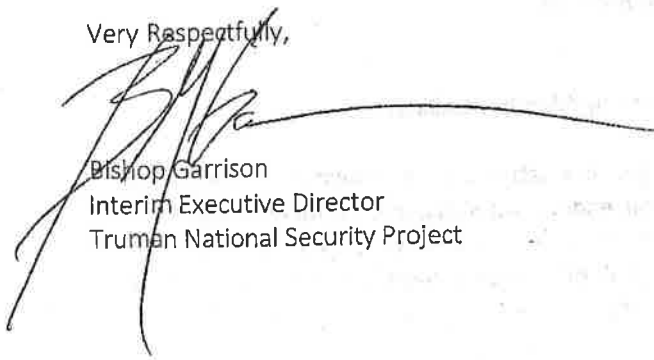
Our national security is at risk when dark money super PACs can be funded by anyone inside or outside of the United States with no accountability. Our national security is at risk when election security infrastructure across the nation is underfunded and not subjected to appropriate oversight. And our national security is at risk when digital media platforms, which are

increasingly used for political advertisements, are not required to disclose the amount of money spent on those ads or identify the spenders themselves.

Our broken system has made us a target of rivals and adversaries abroad, who seek to exploit our vulnerabilities and influence our politics and policies. There is no disputing the risk of such foreign interference: It is, after all, the unanimous and public judgement of the U.S. intelligence community that Russia intervened in the 2016 presidential election to the benefit of then-candidate Trump. We know Russia was active in the 2018 midterms as well, and in the absence of meaningful pushback from this administration, will likely be so again in 2020 and beyond.

H.R. 1 is the package of democracy reform measures that we need to shore up these vulnerabilities. But beyond these specific fixes, Truman recognizes that any effort at democracy reform that drives power to citizens, increases transparency, and pushes back against corruption is one that will ultimately strengthen our nation. Accordingly, we are grateful to the committee for making this legislation a top priority and look forward to further legislative action on this critical bill. Truman Project stands ready to continue fighting for a more robust democracy so that America can protect our institutions at home and continue to lead with our values abroad.

Very Respectfully,



Bishop Garrison
Interim Executive Director
Truman National Security Project