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Congress of the United States **Bouse of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

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SENIOR WHIP **DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF **AUTHORIZATION OF SUBPOENAS** 2141 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING APRIL 3, 2019 10:00AM

- For two years now, Americans watched as the Special Counsel, Robert Mueller, diligently carried out his mandate: namely to investigate whether Russia interfered in our election and whether that crime was aided and abetted by the Trump Campaign or its associates.
- Two Fridays ago, on March 22, 2019, newly-appointed Attorney General Bill Barr released word that the Special Counsel had submitted his report to the Department of Justice.
- In his notification to the Judiciary Committee, AG Barr promised to give Special Counsel Mueller's "topline conclusions."

- Yet, two days later, Mr. Barr submitted the Barr summary of the Mueller Report.
- In his Sunday afternoon submission, AG Barr stated that the Special Counsel did not *establish* conspiracy.
- And he went one unneeded step further: while the Special Counsel
 did not offer a conclusion on obstruction of justice—presumably
 not to encroach a prerogative of Congress—the Attorney General
 took it upon himself to summarily absolve the President of any
 claim of obstruction of justice.
- Given his track record, the Judiciary Committee simply will not accept the President's word about his own innocence and will not accept the word of the Attorney General he appointed.
- The American people agree with us, as numerous public opinion polls have shown substantial majority support for the Mueller report to be made public.
- And similar majorities are of the opinion that neither the Barr Memo nor the Mueller report absolves Trump of wrongdoing.
- The House Judiciary Committee has asked that the Attorney General produce the Mueller Report by April 2, 2019 which was yesterday.
- The Attorney General has failed to comply with this request.

- Mr. Chairman, the Attorney General has indicated that he plans on releasing the Mueller report by mid-April, but that is not good enough.
- Moreover, the Attorney General has indicated that he plans on extensive redactions to the report.
- The redactions that Attorney General Barr contemplates are not just for normal things like protecting classified information, sources and methods, and protecting sensitive criminal justice information like Section 6e grand jury testimony.
- But Attorney General Barr also wants to redact the names and the information of folks who he just wants to protect from embarrassment.
- This is not a recognized exception.
- Congress is entitled to the full report and Congress will determine what information is released, consistent with its standing as a separate, co-equal branch of government.
- And that is why we are here today.
- Because of this impasse, this Committee has no choice but to authorize a subpoena for the full Mueller report.
- Not with redactions designed to placate the President.
- Not with overly broad redactions.

- Congress is entitled to the full report, as well as the underlying documentation.
- Because Attorney General Barr has made clear that he does not plan to follow through with this, this Committee must act.
- Which is why I will be voting in favor of authorizing the subpoenas noticed today, and I urge all members to do the same
- Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.