

## HOUSE DEMOCRATS ACT TO SAFEGUARD OUR DEMOCRACY 8 PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

# EXPOSING AND COMBATTING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CRIMES, CORRUPTION AND COVER-UP

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report uncovered the truth behind one of the most serious attacks on our democracy in our history. The report revealed that the Russians waged an all-out, systematic assault on the 2016 elections to benefit Donald Trump, Trump and his campaign team eagerly welcomed and even encouraged this attack and that Trump and his allies then took calculated steps to obstruct the investigation and cover up the truth.

The Administration has engaged in unparalleled abuses of power and corruption while hiding the truth from the American public – and just this month, President Trump said he would again accept campaign help from the Russian government to win the 2020 election. The fact that the President would betray our country and jeopardize our national security to accept assistance from a foreign adversary to disrupt our elections should alarm all Americans.

Congress has a patriotic duty to protect our elections — every Member of Congress swears an oath to defend our democracy against threats, both foreign and domestic. Democrats' first action in the Majority was to pass H.R. 1, the For The People Act, to strengthen our democracy and protect our elections. Under the leadership of our Chairs, Democrats have held numerous hearings on how best to secure our elections, counter subversive interference by our enemies and blunt the impact of information warfare in our democracy. House Democrats are now advancing legislation to aggressively address the crimes, corruption and cover-up exposed in the Mueller report — and to build on the critical policies in H.R. 1. We owe it to the American people to get the truth, to protect our national security from future attacks by a foreign adversary and to restore integrity back into the Office of the Presidency.

This report details House Democrats' plan to safeguard our democracy from future foreign attacks and to hold the President accountable for his abuses of power. Democrats will close gaps in existing law, bolster our defenses and uphold the balance of powers enshrined in our sacred Constitution, honoring our oath: investigate, litigate, legislate.

Nothing less than the integrity of our democracy, the rule of law and national security are at stake.



## KEY FINDINGS OF THE MUELLER REPORT

If we had confidence that the President clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so... And I will close by reiterating the central allegation of our indictments — that there were multiple, systematic efforts to interfere in our election.

That allegation deserves the attention of every American.

- SPECIAL COUNSEL ROBERT MUELLER

## THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACKED U.S. ELECTIONS, & TRUMP & HIS CAMPAIGN WELCOMED & SOUGHT RUSSIA'S HELP TO WIN

- Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election in "<u>sweeping and systemic fashion</u>" to help elect Donald J. Trump.
- Russia <u>infiltrated U.S. election infrastructure</u>, including the successful penetration of state and local election infrastructure and a private voting administration firm.

"The Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion." - Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III

 The Russian government used hundreds of thousands of hacked, stolen documents to disparage candidate Clinton and help Trump. <u>The Trump campaign</u> welcomed the release of information illegally obtained by Russian hacking efforts, and <u>President Trump personally received advance notice regarding the release</u> of damaging information.

## RUSSIA USED "INFORMATION WARFARE" TO SOW DISCORD IN THE ELECTION AND TO HELP CANDIDATE TRUMP

- Russia engaged in a sustained and <u>sophisticated disinformation campaign</u> across social media platforms to aid Trump's campaign, exploiting loopholes in our campaign finance and communications law.
- Special Counsel Mueller identified <u>extensive</u>, <u>improper contacts over 120 in total between the Trump campaign and Russian agents</u> that were never reported to the FBI, including the sharing of nonpublic campaign strategy documents.



"[Russia] stole private information, and then released that information through fake online identities and through the organization WikiLeaks. The releases were designed and timed to interfere with our election and to damage a presidential candidate."

- Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III

• The Russian government (the Internet Research Agency or IRA) reached tens of millions of U.S. persons through their disinformation campaign using fake social media accounts to aid Trump's campaign. "From June 2016 until the end of the presidential campaign, almost all of the U.S. rallies organized by the IRA focused on the U.S. election, often promoting the Trump Campaign and opposing the Clinton Campaign."

# TRUMP USED "MOB-STYLE" TACTICS TO OBSTRUCT THE MUELLER INVESTIGATION, ABUSE EXECUTIVE POWER & TAMPER WITH WITNESSES

On at least 10 instances, <u>President Trump asked his staff to lie or falsify documents to obstruct the Mueller investigation</u> and cover up the truth of Trump's actions.

"When a subject of an investigation obstructs that investigation or lies to investigators, it strikes at the core of the government's effort to find the truth and hold wrongdoers accountable."

- Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III

- The report found that the President's <u>obstruction would have been even more</u> dangerous and damaging if not for the fact that many of "the persons who surrounded the President declined to carry out orders or accede to his requests."
- President Trump <u>engaged in witness tampering and misused his pardon</u> power to discourage Paul Manafort, Michael Flynn and others from cooperating with the Mueller investigation.
- The Special Counsel's Office charged 37 people and entities with crimes; already convicted 7, including 5 top Trump top campaign officials; "identified evidence of potential criminal activity that was outside the scope" of its jurisdiction in 14 additional matters that continue to be pursued by law enforcement; and transferred another 11 matters.



#### **EXPOSING & COMBATTING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S**

## **CORRUPTION & COVER-UP**

In the wake of Watergate, Congress passed sweeping reforms to combat the corrupting influence of money in politics and promote ethics and transparency in government. Today, faced with the unprecedented level of corruption and vulnerability to our democracy exposed in the Mueller Report, Congress is acting with the same urgency.

The effort by multiple Committees has relied on a robust hearing, legislative and litigation strategy that will continue to unfold over the coming weeks and months. House Democrats will engage the American people in a national discussion about the crimes exposed by the Mueller report, while continuing to advance a comprehensive policy response to protect our national security and secure our democracy in advance of the 2020 election, building on H.R. 1, the For The People Act.

This work includes a focus on legislative reform across three key goals:

#### 1) SECURE & DEFEND OUR ELECTIONS

<u>House Democrats have advanced legislation that</u>: Increases funding to protect our state election systems, requires adoption of paper ballots and risk-limit audits and mandates strict cybersecurity notification requirements for election technology vendors.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2) PREVENT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE & INFLUENCE

<u>House Democrats will advance legislation that</u>: Closes foreign money loopholes, codifies an affirmative duty to report foreign intervention in campaigns, clarifies in-kind and coordination law and shuts down illicit foreign activity in our elections through greater oversight and transparency.

## 3) END THE CORRUPTION, END THE ABUSE OF POWER & PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY

<u>House Democrats will advance legislation that</u>: Prohibits the creation of false documents by the Office of the President and ends presidential interference in law enforcement decisions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In June, the House passed the Securing America's Federal Elections (SAFE Act) to harden our election systems defenses, building on the critical ballot box security reforms contained in H.B. 1.



A II of Congress should be able to agree that we need to protect our national security, secure our elections and defend our democracy – yet Republicans in the Congress continue to stand in the way of action. Not one single House Republican voted in support of H.R. 1, while Senate Majority Leader McConnell continues to brag that he is the "Grim Reaper" of our House legislation – refusing to take up our vital legislation to strengthen our national security and shield our democracy from foreign attacks. What's more, Congressional Republicans are complicit in the obstruction of legitimate Congressional investigations and the President's ongoing disregard for the rule of law.

Members of Congress have a responsibility to honor our oath of office, the vision of our Founders and the text of the Constitution. <u>Our Democratic House Majority will continue to fight for our national security by securing our elections, safeguarding our democracy and holding the President accountable – because no one is above the law.</u>

