

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2586

To require an independent assessment and report of subversive activities
of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require an independent assessment and report of subver-
sive activities of the Russian Federation, and for other
purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reporting on Influence
5 and Subversion by the Kremlin Act” or “RISK Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 1986, an interagency working group
9 issued a report assessing “active measures” by the
10 former Soviet Union against the United States.

1 (2) The working group concluded that “there is
2 a massive and highly organized effort by the Soviet
3 Union and its proxies to influence world opinion”.

4 (3) The working group further observed that
5 “this effort includes public diplomacy to enhance the
6 Soviet image abroad and . . . also includes a per-
7 sistent, widespread program of disinformation and
8 deception designed to discredit the U.S. image
9 abroad and disrupt U.S. policy objectives.”.

10 (4) Active measures by the Russian Federation
11 have shown no diminution since the last report
12 issued by the working group in 1987, including—

13 (A) to influence world opinion;

14 (B) to undercut democratic processes and
15 institutions in the United States and partner
16 nations;

17 (C) to challenge the international liberal
18 order; and

19 (D) to establish an unfettered sphere of in-
20 fluence.

21 (5) The Director of National Intelligence con-
22 cluded in light of the Russian Federation’s hacking
23 of the 2016 presidential election that “Russian ef-
24 forts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election
25 represent the most recent expression of Moscow’s

1 longstanding desire to undermine the U.S.-led liberal
2 democratic order.”.

3 (6) The Russian Federation is deploying an
4 array of military, cyber, intelligence, and economic
5 tactics to weaken United States democratic institu-
6 tions, divide Europe from the United States, divide
7 Europe from within, undermine organizations such
8 as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the
9 European Union, and coerce partners to cooperate
10 with Russia.

11 (7) Militarily, Russian President Vladimir Putin
12 ordered the forcible and illegal occupation of Crimea
13 in March 2014 and the invasion of Georgia in 2008.

14 (8) The Russian military, in which President
15 Putin has invested heavily, continues to engage in
16 acts of aggression and intimidation against United
17 States allies across Europe.

18 (9) The Russian Federation’s subversive activi-
19 ties undermine trust in democratic systems, giving
20 rise to political instability.

21 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BY THE**
22 **RUSSIAN FEDERATION.**

23 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
25 submit to Congress a report setting forth an assessment,

1 obtained by the Secretary for purposes of the report, of
2 subversive activities by the Russian Federation.

3 (b) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The assessment obtained for
5 purposes of subsection (a) shall be conducted by a
6 federally funded research and development center
7 (FFRDC), or another appropriate independent enti-
8 ty with expertise in diplomatic and military develop-
9 ments in Europe and the Russian Federation, se-
10 lected by the Secretary for purposes of the assess-
11 ment.

12 (2) USE OF PREVIOUS STUDIES.—The entity
13 conducting the assessment may use and incorporate
14 information from previous studies on matters appro-
15 priate to the assessment.

16 (c) ELEMENTS.—The assessment obtained for pur-
17 poses of subsection (a) shall include the following:

18 (1) An assessment of disinformation and propa-
19 ganda activities of the Russian Federation, including
20 an assessment of—

21 (A) support for disinformation and propa-
22 ganda activities with respect to the United
23 States and foreign countries;

24 (B) the overall structure of the Russian
25 Government's disinformation and influence ap-

paratus, including its intelligence agencies and propaganda outlets such as Russia Today; and

(C) propaganda techniques, including forgery, use of media representatives and proxies, use of front organizations, and efforts to influence international organizations.

(2) An assessment of support by the Russian Federation for separatist activities and other aggressive actions aimed at undermining the sovereignty of foreign countries, particularly in Ukraine and the Baltic countries.

(3) An assessment of cyber intrusions by the Russian Federation to influence the infrastructure and democratic processes in the United States and other countries.

(4) An assessment of—

(A) the use of energy exports by the Russian Federation for purposes of political or economic coercion; and

(B) significant investment in energy infrastructure, including pipelines, by the Government of Russia or Russian-controlled entities.

(5) An assessment of the deterioration of democratic conditions in the Russian Federation, including—

- 1 (A) suppression of freedom of the press;
- 2 (B) detention, beating, and murder of po-
- 3 litical activists and opposition leaders;
- 4 (C) suppression of minority rights;
- 5 (D) suppression of human rights; and
- 6 (E) efforts to undermine the Russian non-
- 7 governmental organizations and Russian civil
- 8 society.

9 (d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
10 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include
11 a classified annex.

12 **SEC. 4. COUNTERING RUSSIAN INFLUENCE FUND.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized
14 to establish in the Department of the Treasury a fund to
15 be known as the Countering Russian Influence Fund (in
16 this section referred to as the “Fund”).

17 (b) AMOUNTS IN FUND.—The Fund shall consist of
18 the following:

19 (1) Amounts appropriated to carry out section
20 7070(d) of division C of the Consolidated Appropria-
21 tions Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–31).

22 (2) Amounts otherwise available to the Sec-
23 retary of State to carry out this section.

24 (c) PURPOSES OF FUND.—Amounts in the Fund for
25 any fiscal year are authorized to be made available to the

1 Secretary of State for bilateral assistance for countries in
2 Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia, to counter the fol-
3 lowing activities in such countries carried out by the Rus-
4 sian Federation:

5 (1) Support for disinformation and propaganda.

6 (2) Interference in foreign elections.

7 (3) Efforts to undermine financial transparency
8 and governance.

9 (d) CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.—
10 Amounts in the Fund for any fiscal year may be made
11 available to carry out the purposes of the Fund under sub-
12 section (c) through civil society and other organizations
13 that seek to mitigate the expansion of Russian influence
14 and aggression, including through public awareness cam-
15 paigns and exchange activities.

16 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
18 appropriated to the President not less than
19 \$100,000,000 to carry out this section.

20 (2) RELATION TO CERTAIN OTHER AMOUNTS.—

21 Such funds are in addition to any other amounts
22 made available for bilateral assistance for countries
23 in Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia.

24 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section
25 shall be considered to be an authorization of appro-

1 priations for purposes of section 7070(d) of division
2 C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017
3 (Public Law 115–31).

4 (f) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall submit to
5 Congress a report for each fiscal year for which activities
6 are undertaken pursuant to this section.

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