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 subversive 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
4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “Reporting on Influence
6 and Subversion by the Kremlin Act” or “RISK Act”.
7
8 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
9 Congress finds the following:
10 (1) In 1986, an interagency working group
11 issued a report assessing “active measures” by the
12 former Soviet Union against the United States.
(2) The working group concluded that “there is a massive and highly organized effort by the Soviet Union and its proxies to influence world opinion”.

(3) The working group further observed that “this effort includes public diplomacy to enhance the Soviet image abroad and . . . also includes a persistent, widespread program of disinformation and deception designed to discredit the U.S. image abroad and disrupt U.S. policy objectives.”

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

(A) to influence world opinion;

(B) to undermine democratic processes and institutions in the United States and partner nations;

(C) to challenge the international liberal order; and

(D) to establish an unfettered sphere of influence.

(5) The Director of National Intelligence concluded in light of the Russian Federation’s hacking of the 2016 presidential election that “Russian efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election represent the most recent expression of Moscow’s...
longstanding desire to undermine the U.S.-led liberal
democratic order.”

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

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

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

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

SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BY THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
submit to Congress a report setting forth an assessment,
obtained by the Secretary for purposes of the report, of
subversive activities by the Russian Federation.

(b) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The assessment obtained for
purposes of subsection (a) shall be conducted by a
federally funded research and development center
(FFRDC), or another appropriate independent enti-

ty with expertise in diplomatic and military develop-
ments in Europe and the Russian Federation, se-
lected by the Secretary for purposes of the assess-
ment.

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

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

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

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

(B) the overall structure of the Russian
Government’s disinformation and influence ap-
paratus, including its intelligence agencies and
propaganda outlets such as Russia Today; and

(C) propaganda techniques, including for-
gery, use of media representatives and proxies,
use of front organizations, and efforts to influ-
ence international organizations.

(2) An assessment of support by the Russian
Federation for separatist activities and other aggres-
sive 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 Rus-
sian Federation for purposes of political or eco-
nomic coercion; and

(B) significant investment in energy infra-
structure, including pipelines, by the Govern-
ment of Russia or Russian-controlled entities.

(5) An assessment of the deterioration of demo-
cratic conditions in the Russian Federation, includ-
ing—
(A) suppression of freedom of the press;
(B) detention, beating, and murder of political activists and opposition leaders;
(C) suppression of minority rights;
(D) suppression of human rights; and
(E) efforts to undermine the Russian nongovernmental organizations and Russian civil society.

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

SEC. 4. COUNTERING RUSSIAN INFLUENCE FUND.

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

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

(1) Amounts appropriated to carry out section 7070(d) of division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–31).

(2) Amounts otherwise available to the Secretary of State to carry out this section.

(c) PURPOSES OF FUND.—Amounts in the Fund for any fiscal year are authorized to be made available to the
Secretary of State for bilateral assistance for countries in Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia, to counter the following activities in such countries carried out by the Russian Federation:

(1) Support for disinformation and propaganda.
(2) Interference in foreign elections.
(3) Efforts to undermine financial transparency and governance.

(d) Civil Society and Other Organizations.—Amounts in the Fund for any fiscal year may be made available to carry out the purposes of the Fund under subsection (c) through civil society and other organizations that seek to mitigate the expansion of Russian influence and aggression, including through public awareness campaigns and exchange activities.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—

(1) In General.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President not less than $100,000,000 to carry out this section.

(2) Relation to Certain Other Amounts.—Such funds are in addition to any other amounts made available for bilateral assistance for countries in Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia.

(3) Rule of Construction.—This section shall be considered to be an authorization of appro-
appropriations for purposes of section 7070(d) of division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–31).

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