

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 804

To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to protect the National Security Council from political interference, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BEYER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MENG, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. LEE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. KIND, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. POLIS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. SWALWELL of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to protect the National Security Council from political interference, 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 “Protect the National
5 Security Council From Political Interference Act of
6 2017”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**
8 **FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE.**

9 (a) **LIMITATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**
10 **MEMBERSHIP.**—Section 101(c) of the National Security
11 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “The Presi-
13 dent may designate” and inserting “Except as pro-
14 vided in paragraph (3), the President may des-
15 ignate”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(3) **PROHIBITION ON MEMBERSHIP OF POLIT-**
19 **ICAL OFFICERS.**—The President may not designate
20 any individual whose primary or predominant re-
21 sponsibility is political in nature to serve as a mem-
22 ber of the Council or otherwise to regularly attend
23 or participate in meetings of the Council or meetings
24 convened under the auspices of the Council, includ-
25 ing Principals Committee meetings.”.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that no limitations should be imposed on the ability
3 of the Director of National Intelligence or the Chairman
4 of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or their designees, to attend
5 any Principals Committee meeting convened under the
6 auspices of the National Security Council or any other
7 senior interagency meeting convened for the purpose of
8 considering policy issues that affect the national security
9 interests of the United States.

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