

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 97

Establishing the Joint Select Committee on the Events and Activities  
Surrounding China’s Handling of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2020

Mr. BARR submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred  
to the Committee on Rules

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing the Joint Select Committee on the Events and  
Activities Surrounding China’s Handling of the 2019  
Novel Coronavirus.

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4        There is hereby established in the Senate and the  
5 House of Representatives a joint select committee to be  
6 known as the “Joint Select Committee on the Events and  
7 Activities Surrounding China’s Handling of the 2019  
8 Novel Coronavirus” (hereafter referred to as the “Joint  
9 Select Committee”).

1 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Select Committee  
4 shall be composed of 20 Members of the House of  
5 Representatives and Senate, of whom—

6 (A) 10 shall be Members of the House of  
7 Representatives, of whom 5 shall be appointed  
8 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
9 and 5 shall be appointed by the minority leader  
10 of the House of Representatives; and

11 (B) 10 shall be Senators, of whom 5 shall  
12 be appointed by the majority leader of the Sen-  
13 ate and 5 shall be appointed by the minority  
14 leader of the Senate.

15 (2) TREATMENT OF DELEGATE AND RESIDENT  
16 COMMISSIONER.—For purposes of this section, a  
17 “Member” of the House of Representatives includes  
18 a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Con-  
19 gress.

20 (b) CO-CHAIRS.—Two of the members of the Joint  
21 Select Committee shall serve as co-chairs of the Joint Se-  
22 lect Committee, and shall be appointed as follows:

23 (1) One shall be a Member of the House of  
24 Representatives, who shall be appointed as co-chair  
25 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in

1 consultation with the minority leader of the House  
2 of Representatives.

3 (2) One shall be a Senator, who shall be ap-  
4 pointed as co-chair by the majority leader of the  
5 Senate in consultation with the minority leader of  
6 the Senate.

7 (c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership of the  
8 Joint Select Committee (including a vacancy resulting be-  
9 cause a member ceases to be a Member of the House of  
10 Representatives or a Senator) shall not affect its powers,  
11 and shall be filled not later than 14 calendar days after  
12 the date on which the vacancy occurs in the same manner  
13 as the original appointment was made.

14 (d) DEADLINES.—Members of the Joint Select Com-  
15 mittee and the co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee  
16 shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after  
17 the date of the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

18 **SEC. 3. INVESTIGATION AND REPORT ON THE EVENTS SUR-**  
19 **ROUNDING CHINA'S HANDLING OF THE 2019**  
20 **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.**

21 (a) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.—The Joint Select  
22 Committee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and  
23 complete investigation of, and to issue a final report to  
24 the House of Representatives and Senate regarding, the  
25 following:

1           (1) The origins and causes of the 2019 novel  
2 coronavirus.

3           (2) All policies, decisions, and activities by  
4 China regarding the origins and causes of such  
5 coronavirus.

6           (3) All policies, decisions, and activities by  
7 China in response to the initial outbreak and spread  
8 of such coronavirus.

9           (4) All policies, decisions, and activities by  
10 China to suppress facts and information regarding  
11 the spread, origins, causes, and transmission of such  
12 coronavirus, including efforts to silence those mak-  
13 ing early warnings, punish whistleblowers, and re-  
14 strict freedom of information about such coronavi-  
15 rus.

16           (5) All policies, decisions, and activities by  
17 China to spread misinformation regarding the ori-  
18 gins and causes of such coronavirus, including accu-  
19 sations and misinformation that the coronavirus was  
20 brought to the city of Wuhan by the United States  
21 military.

22           (6) All policies, decisions, and activities by  
23 China to sideline, deny, and suppress charitable  
24 service organizations, institutions of civil society,  
25 secular and faith-based non-governmental organiza-

1 tions, international humanitarian organizations, and  
2 foreign governments offering to provide information,  
3 expertise, resources, and assistance to China and the  
4 Chinese people to combat such coronavirus.

5 (7) Accountability for policies, decisions and ac-  
6 tivities related to influencing the World Health Or-  
7 ganization's response to the outbreak of such  
8 coronavirus, including individuals and entities re-  
9 sponsible for those policies, decisions, and activities.

10 (8) All policies, decisions, and activities by  
11 China to manufacture, produce, procure, possess, or  
12 hoard personal protective equipment and critical  
13 pharmaceutical components to manipulate or  
14 weaponize the supply chain against the international  
15 community, including the United States.

16 (9) Vulnerabilities in the United States domes-  
17 tic and global supply chain to combat a global pan-  
18 demic due to reliance on Chinese manufacturing and  
19 recommendations for decreasing dependence on Chi-  
20 nese manufacturing by improving and securing a do-  
21 mestic supply chain for antibiotics, viral drugs, crit-  
22 ical pharmaceutical components, masks, and other  
23 personal protective equipment.

24 (10) Information related to lessons learned  
25 from China's handling of such coronavirus.

1           (11) Any other relevant issues relating to Chi-  
2           na’s actions that led to further spread of such  
3           coronavirus, China’s response to such coronavirus,  
4           or the investigation by the Joint Select Committee  
5           into China regarding such coronavirus.

6           (12) Any recommendations to Congress and the  
7           executive branch regarding actions the United States  
8           government should take in response to China’s han-  
9           dling of such coronavirus.

10          (b) TRANSFER OF RECORDS.—At the request of the  
11         co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee, any standing  
12         committee of the Senate or House of Representatives hav-  
13         ing custody of records in any form relating to the matters  
14         described in subsection (a) shall transfer such records to  
15         the Joint Select Committee.

16          (c) INTERIM REPORTS.—In addition to the final re-  
17         port issued under subsection (a), the Joint Select Com-  
18         mittee may issue such interim reports as it considers nec-  
19         essary.

20          (d) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The Joint Select Com-  
21         mittee may include a classified annex in any report issued  
22         under this section.

23          (e) DEFINITIONS.—

1           (1) CHINA.—In this section, the term “China”  
2 means the Government of the People’s Republic of  
3 China and any of the following:

4           (A) An official of the Chinese Communist  
5 Party.

6           (B) An official of the Government of the  
7 People’s Republic of China.

8           (C) An agent or instrumentality of the  
9 Government of the People’s Republic of China.

10          (D) Any other person owned or controlled  
11 by or acting on behalf of any person described  
12 in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

13          (2) 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.—In this sub-  
14 section, the term “2019 novel coronavirus” means  
15 the coronavirus disease (COVID–19) and severe  
16 acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS–  
17 CoV–2).

18 **SEC. 4. POWERS.**

19          (a) HEARINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—For the  
20 purpose of carrying out its duties, the Joint Select Com-  
21 mittee may hold such hearings and undertake such other  
22 activities as the Joint Select Committee determines to be  
23 necessary to carry out its duties, whether the Congress  
24 is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned.

1 (b) AUTHORITY TO USE SUBPOENAS.—The Joint Se-  
2 lect Committee may require by subpoena the attendance  
3 of such witnesses and the production of such books, pa-  
4 pers, and documents, as it considers appropriate.

5 (c) ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SERVICES.—  
6 The Joint Select Committee shall have access to the serv-  
7 ices of the Government Accountability Office, the Congres-  
8 sional Budget Office, and the Congressional Research  
9 Service in the same manner and under the same terms  
10 and conditions as any standing committee of the House  
11 of Representatives or Senate.

12 (d) ADOPTION OF RULES.—Not later than 7 days  
13 after all of its members have been appointed, the Joint  
14 Select Committee shall adopt rules governing its oper-  
15 ations, including rules governing the issuance of sub-  
16 poenas and rules governing the use of official funds for  
17 travel by members and staff, and shall submit such rules  
18 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and Sec-  
19 retary of the Senate for publication in the Congressional  
20 Record.

21 **SEC. 5. STAFF; FUNDING.**

22 (a) STAFF.—

23 (1) USE OF EXISTING STAFF.—To the greatest  
24 extent practicable, the Joint Select Committee shall

1 utilize the services of staff of employing offices of  
2 the Senate and House of Representatives.

3 (2) AUTHORITY TO APPOINT STAFF.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the co-chairs  
5 of the Joint Select Committee may appoint,  
6 prescribe the duties and responsibilities of, and  
7 fix the pay of such staff as the co-chair con-  
8 siders appropriate to assist the Joint Select  
9 Committee in carrying out its duties, so long as  
10 the number of staff appointed by one of the co-  
11 chairs does not exceed the number of staff ap-  
12 pointed by the other co-chair.

13 (B) DETAIL OF CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOY-  
14 EES.—Upon the joint request of the co-chairs,  
15 the head of an employing office of the House of  
16 Representatives or Senate (including a joint  
17 committee of the Congress) is authorized to de-  
18 tail, without reimbursement, any of the staff of  
19 the office to the Joint Select Committee to as-  
20 sist the Joint Select Committee in carrying out  
21 its duties.

22 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Section  
23 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946  
24 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)) shall apply with respect to the  
25 Joint Select Committee in the same manner as such

1 section applies with respect to a standing committee  
2 of the Senate, except that any consultant whose  
3 services are procured by the Joint Select Committee  
4 shall be selected jointly by the co-chairs of the Joint  
5 Select Committee.

6 (b) FUNDING.—

7 (1) VOUCHERS.—Payments for expenses of the  
8 Joint Select Committee shall be made using vouch-  
9 ers authorized by the Joint Select Committee, signed  
10 by co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee, and ap-  
11 proved in a manner directed by the Committee on  
12 Rules and Administration of the Senate and the  
13 Committee on House Administration of the House of  
14 Representatives.

15 (2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—There are authorized  
16 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary  
17 for the operation of the Joint Select Committee, of  
18 which—

19 (A) 50 percent shall be derived from the  
20 applicable accounts of the House of Representa-  
21 tives; and

22 (B) 50 percent shall be derived from the  
23 contingent fund of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

2 (a) **TERMINATION DATE.**—The Joint Select Com-  
3 mittee shall terminate 30 days after filing the final report  
4 required under section 3.

5 (b) **TRANSFER OF RECORDS.**—Upon termination of  
6 the Joint Select Committee, the records of the Joint Select  
7 Committee shall be transferred to—

8 (1) such committee or committees of the House  
9 of Representatives as may be designated by the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

11 (2) such committee or committees of the Senate  
12 as may be designated by the President pro tempore  
13 of the Senate.

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