

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 2, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

We write to express our outrage, and grave concern, that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) refuses to provide in-person intelligence briefings to Members of Congress about foreign efforts to interfere in upcoming elections. In response to ODNI's unprecedented decision, and in anticipation of legislative action on the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2021 and appropriations legislation, we request that the House of Representatives include language in any authorization or appropriation of funds to ODNI compelling the reinstatement of regular briefings on election security for Congress.

Congress should consider all remedies available to enforce regular intelligence briefings in advance of the elections, up to and including withholding of funds from the ODNI entirely. The ODNI's actions are a betrayal of the American people's right to be kept informed of attempts to subvert our elections, as well as their statutory duties. It is time for Congress to remind the Director of National Intelligence, and this Administration, that they are not above the law. They must answer to the American people.

We thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you both to combat the increasing lawlessness of Executive Branch agencies and their subversion of the U.S. Constitution and Congress.

Sincerely,

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress