

July 27, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear House Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell,

We are writing to urge you to follow the approach used in recent years and pass a joint resolution to recess Congress for three-day pro forma sessions when Congress goes out for the August recess.

If you were to agree to a longer recess, or do anything to permit one, you would open the door for President Trump to fire independent Special Counsel Robert Mueller and eliminate the Special Counsel office, among other things. A longer recess would enable President Trump to bypass the Senate confirmation process and make a recess appointment of a new Attorney General who is prepared to fire Special Counsel Mueller and shut down the investigation.

When the issue of President Trump firing Robert Mueller was raised in June, both of you defended Mr. Mueller.

Speaker Ryan said:

“I think the best thing to do is to let Robert Mueller do his job. I think the best vindication for the president is to let this investigation go on independent and thoroughly. ... That to me is the smartest thing to do, the best thing to do, hopefully it will happen.” [The Hill: GOP Leaders Are Unified: Firing Mueller A Bad Idea \(6/13/17\)](#)

Majority Leader McConnell said:

“I have a lot of confidence in Bob Mueller. I think it was a good choice.” [The Hill: GOP Leaders Are Unified: Firing Mueller A Bad Idea \(6/13/17\)](#)

More recently, Speaker Ryan [said in an interview](#):

“Remember, Bob Mueller is a Republican who was appointed by a Republican, who served in the Republican administration and crossed over, I mean, and stayed on until his term ended. But – I don’t think many people are saying Bob Mueller is a person who is a biased partisan. He’s really sort of anything but. ...”

...

“The point is, we have an investigation in the House, an investigation in the Senate, and a special counsel who sort of depoliticizes this stuff and gets it out of the political sphere, and that is, I think, better, to get this off to the side, I think the facts will vindicate themselves and then let’s just go do our job.”

Numerous other Republican Senators and Representatives [have made statements](#) in the past in opposition to President Trump firing Mr. Mueller and in support of him as Special Counsel.

We strongly urge the House and Senate to pass a resolution for the coming recess that provides for three-day pro forma sessions.

To fail to do so will empower President Trump to begin the process of firing Robert Mueller and shutting down the independent Special Counsel investigation. If that happens because of a recess Attorney General appointment, you will share responsibility with President Trump for that outcome and for the national firestorm that will follow.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Common Cause

CREW

Daily Kos

Demand Progress

Democracy 21

Every Voice

Indivisible

Kathleen Clark

Norman Eisen, former chief White House ethics lawyer (2009-2011)

People For the American Way

Protect Democracy

Public Citizen

Ravi Gupta, Executive Director of The Arena

Revolving Door Project

Richard Painter, former chief White House ethics lawyer (2005-2007)