



VOTE NO ON H.RES. 970

June 28, 2018

Dear Representative:

Democracy 21 strongly urges you to vote NO on H.Res. 970, the “resolution of inquiry” sponsored by Reps. Mark Meadows (R-NC) and Jim Jordan (R-OH), that is scheduled for floor action today. The resolution [demands](#) that the Justice Department turn over “reams of documents” connected to Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

This resolution is the latest move in the ongoing efforts by some Republican House members to wrongly undermine the independence, integrity and credibility of the Department of Justice investigation.

This resolution proposes that the House engage in extraordinary interference with an ongoing criminal investigation by the Justice Department. The investigation involves both confidential sources and highly sensitive matters of national security. For the House to demand a vast production of internal investigative documents in the middle of this criminal investigation is unprecedented, indefensible and flatly wrong.

Democracy 21 urges you to oppose this wrongful attack on the criminal justice system and the rule of law.

The purpose of H.Res. 970 is clear: it is one more step in a campaign by some House Republicans to damage, discredit and, if possible, shut down the Mueller investigation in order to protect President Trump at all costs, regardless of the facts and the consequences. The request will result in a process of selective leaks and the disclosure of sensitive and confidential information if it is complied with.

While the oversight responsibilities of the House are well established, these responsibilities do not include investigating and interfering in an active criminal investigation.

The House will have an opportunity to exercise proper oversight of this matter, once the work of the Special Counsel is completed. For the House to intrude into the internal workings of a criminal investigation while that investigation is still ongoing, as this resolution seeks to do, is an abuse of the House’s institutional responsibilities. Such action would change the House’s role from oversight to interference in a criminal investigation.

The resolution appears to be the next step in a campaign that some House members have been conducting for months to undermine and discredit the Mueller investigation. This can be done either by obtaining and then selectively deploying criminal investigative files for improper purposes, or by manufacturing a phony confrontation with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein which could then be used by President Trump as pretext for Rosenstein's improper dismissal.

Either way, the goal here is to impede and potentially destroy the work of the Special Counsel.

As a member of the House with responsibilities to the American people as well as the institution, supporting these improper activities would constitute a disservice to the country and an abuse of your institutional responsibilities.

Special Counsel Mueller, appointed by a Republican Deputy Attorney General, is a lifelong Republican and longtime law enforcement official. Mueller has impeccable credentials and the highest reputation for integrity. There is no evidence that he has abused his authority or engaged in any improper activity that would warrant House intervention in the ongoing criminal investigation that he is conducting.

The American people are entitled to have Mr. Mueller complete his work and report his findings to the country, without interference in the middle of his work by the House.

We strongly urge you vote against H.Res. 970.

Sincerely,

/s/ Fred Wertheimer

Fred Wertheimer
President, Democracy 21