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DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Acting Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

AUG 28 2020

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
Vice Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Acting Chairman Rubio and Vice Chairman Warner:

The Intelligence Community (IC) is committed to keeping Congress fully and currently informed of all intelligence activities, to include responding to the more than 540 annual congressionally directed actions (CDA) requiring reports, certifications, briefings, financial data, and compliance statistics. While these CDAs cover a wide range of topics affecting the IC, a great many cover elections security, foreign malign influence, and election interference.

Since the 2018 elections, the IC has provided more than 60 defensive briefings and election security updates to the U.S. Congress, including many not required by law. In the last few months alone, the IC, in conjunction with other parts of the executive branch, have provided Congress with more than a dozen briefings, many open to all members of Congress or their staffs. The IC has also provided numerous finished intelligence products spanning a wide range of threats, classification levels, and congressional audiences. While many of these engagements and products have been successful and productive, others have been less so.

In order to ensure clarity and consistency across the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's (ODNI's) engagements with Congress on elections, the ODNI will primarily meet its obligation to keep Congress fully and currently informed leading into the Presidential election through written finished intelligence products.

I believe this approach helps ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the information ODNI provides the Congress in support of your oversight responsibilities on elections security, foreign malign influence, and election interference is not misunderstood nor politicized. It will also better protect our sources and methods and most sensitive intelligence from additional unauthorized disclosures or misuse.

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This approach also ensures that the intelligence we provide reflects the highest analytic standards which is most readily achieved in the thorough coordination and consultation process unique to finished intelligence reporting.

The ODNI will meet its responsibilities in this manner, satisfying seventeen statutory requirements (three of which require briefings) found in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, including those found in Division E, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020, as well as the Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

It is vital that the IC speak with one clear voice on an issue so critical to the American people.

If you have any questions, you may contact Legislative Affairs at (703) 275-2474 (unsecure).

Sincerely,



John Ratcliffe