

By: Turner

H.C.R. No. 25

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2016, the *Washington Post* reported that
2 the Russian government had penetrated the computer network of the
3 Democratic National Committee and that Russian government hackers
4 had targeted the networks of both presidential candidates, as well
5 as the computers of some Republican political action committees;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Indications of Russian interference in the
8 electoral process continued to mount in the ensuing months; the
9 *Washington Post* reported that the FBI had alerted Arizona election
10 officials in June that Russians were behind an assault on their
11 state's voter registration system; as a result, election officials
12 shut down the system for nearly a week; according to the FBI, a
13 similar attack on the state voter registration database in Illinois
14 appeared to offer further evidence of Russian interest in U.S.
15 elections; on October 7, 2016, the U.S. Department of Homeland
16 Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence
17 issued a joint statement expressing confidence that "the Russian
18 Government directed the recent compromises of e-mails from U.S.
19 persons and institutions, including from U.S. political
20 organizations"; and

21 WHEREAS, In response to these incursions, President Barack
22 Obama released a December 29, 2016, executive order "taking
23 additional steps to address the national emergency with respect to
24 significant malicious cyber-enabled activities"; the order blocked

1 all property and interests in property in the United States
2 belonging to five entities based in Russia and four individuals of
3 Russian nationality; in addition, the White House ordered 35
4 Russian operatives to leave the United States, and it closed two
5 Russian-owned facilities believed to have been used for
6 intelligence purposes; and

7 WHEREAS, Just eight days later, the Office of the Director of
8 National Intelligence released an Intelligence Community
9 Assessment of Russian activities and intentions in recent U.S.
10 elections, which determined that Russian president Vladimir Putin
11 ordered his country's campaign to influence the 2016 U.S.
12 presidential election, that the campaign was multifaceted, that the
13 influence effort was the boldest yet in the United States, and that
14 the election operation signaled a "new normal" in Russian influence
15 endeavors; the U.S. intelligence community also assessed with high
16 confidence that Russian military intelligence relayed U.S. victim
17 data to WikiLeaks and that Russian intelligence obtained and
18 maintained access to elements of multiple U.S. state or local
19 electoral boards; and

20 WHEREAS, Then-FBI Director James Comey testified before the
21 House Intelligence Committee on March 20, 2017, to confirm his
22 agency's wide-ranging investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016
23 presidential election, which was ordered by President Vladimir
24 Putin to undermine Hillary Clinton's bid for office and improve the
25 odds for Donald Trump; Mr. Comey noted that the Russians were
26 successful in injecting "chaos and discord" into the electoral
27 process and consequently could be expected to resume such

1 activities in future elections, and revealed that the FBI is
2 looking into possible coordination between the Kremlin and the
3 Trump campaign; subsequently, Mr. Comey was fired by President
4 Trump, and on June 8, 2017, he testified before the Senate
5 Intelligence Committee that the president had pressured him to
6 redirect the FBI's Russia probe and that his dismissal stemmed from
7 his resistance to that pressure; and

8 WHEREAS, Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III is now leading
9 a rapidly expanding investigation into Russian interference in our
10 electoral process, and the Justice Department and congressional
11 intelligence committees are also examining whether the Trump
12 campaign assisted Russian operatives in a cyberattack of
13 unprecedented scale, which encompassed hacking of e-mail accounts
14 and voting registration systems, the sophisticated targeting of
15 voters, and the wide dissemination of fake news and stolen e-mails;
16 the gravity of the situation became even more clear in July when the
17 president's son, Donald Trump Jr., released a series of e-mails
18 that had arranged a meeting regarding information described as
19 "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump"; over
20 the course of several days, it emerged that participants in the
21 meeting included the president's son, his son-in-law and advisor,
22 Jared Kushner, and his former campaign manager, Paul Manafort,
23 along with a highly placed Russian lawyer, a former Soviet
24 counterintelligence officer who now works as a lobbyist, and the
25 representative of the president's Russian business associate; the
26 Russian financial connections of Mr. Kushner and Mr. Manafort are
27 under investigation, according to the *Washington Post*, as are those

1 of former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former
2 campaign adviser Carter Page; and

3 WHEREAS, In light of continually unfolding evidence of
4 Russian interference in U.S. elections, it is the fundamental
5 responsibility of Congress to decide where, how, and by whom
6 financial resources in its control should be invested with regard
7 to Russia; our government should not provide funds that can be used
8 to facilitate the Russian government's campaign to influence our
9 election processes; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas,
11 1st Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the United States
12 Congress to bar investments in Russia until investigations into
13 Russian interference with U.S. elections have been completed; and,
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
16 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
17 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
18 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
19 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
20 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
21 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.