



HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Statement of Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) Homeland Security Committee

*Markup of H.Res. 235
April 5, 2017*

Remarks as Prepared

Before considering the resolution introduced by the gentleman from Mississippi, Ranking Member Thompson, I would like to agree with a statement he recently made about this Committee. Just last week, in a press release about this resolution, he said, “Our Committee has a longstanding and unique history of bipartisan cooperation on national security matters and I believe we can put politics aside for the good of the country.”

I could not agree more with the characterization of this Committee. That is why House Resolution 235 seems unnecessary. In the Ranking Member’s own words in 2009, “A Resolution of Inquiry is the nuclear option when the House has been stonewalled by a federal agency. The Department of Homeland Security has been forthcoming and responsive to this Committee.” This was the first Committee Secretary Kelly appeared before just days after his confirmation. He answered tough questions in a public setting for hours on an array of issues at the Department. He has operated in good faith with this Committee-and reached out to provide classified briefings to our Members without any prompting or request.

Additionally, the Department has provided several briefings on this topic to our Members and staff over the past few months. Just two weeks ago we held a public hearing entitled, “A Borderless Battle: Defending Against Cyber Threats” where my first question concerned the Russian cyberattacks.

As I have stated repeatedly, this is not a Republican or Democrat issue, it’s an American issue and any foreign government interference in U.S. elections is unacceptable and should not go unpunished. But this resolution is not the appropriate means to conduct bipartisan oversight when the Department has operated in a transparent manner.

I would ask the gentleman to reconsider his position on pursuing this “nuclear option.” I hope the Ranking Member will move forward with me in a collegial manner, which respects process and starts with a conversation.

We will continue to conduct oversight as required by the Constitution. I also commit to have Secretary Kelly appear before this Committee in the near future so Members can ask him about this in a public setting. This type of resolution is reserved for Federal Agencies and Departments that are non-compliant which is not the case here. This action only further politicizes these matters. For these reasons, I oppose H. Res. 235.

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