

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 24, 2018

Mr. Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Justice  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 7240  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Director Wray,

Thank you for your service. The Senate Judiciary Committee's preliminary finding that "The Kremlin may also have used the NRA to secretly fund Mr. Trump's campaign" is deeply troubling. There have been media reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating whether Russia illegally funneled money through the National Rifle Association (NRA) to support Donald Trump in 2016. The NRA, however, also spent significant sums on other federal races. We are requesting the FBI investigate whether the Kremlin funneled money through the NRA to affect any U.S. House or U.S. Senate races.

On May 16, Senate Judiciary Democrats released a report detailing the preliminary findings of their investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. Specifically, the findings indicated that the Committee has received documents suggesting that Russia may have used the NRA to improperly provide financial support to the Trump campaign.

This finding is consistent with recent public reporting that the NRA may have served as a conduit for illegal Russian contributions to the Trump campaign. It is further bolstered by the complex web of relationships between Russian nationals and the NRA. In particular, we understand that the organization has ties to Alexander Torshin, the deputy governor of Russia's central bank; Maria Butina, Torshin's assistant and the founder of Right to Bear Arms; Sergei Rudov, the general director of St. Basil the Great Charitable Foundation, which has been reportedly used for money laundering; and Dmitry Rogozin, Russia's Deputy Prime Minister of Defense.

The NRA spent more than \$30 million to support the Trump campaign, an amount far greater than those used for previous Republican presidential nominees. We also know the NRA spent significant amounts on U.S. House or U.S. Senate races.

Illegal campaign contributions by a foreign nation, especially one whose interests stand in stark contrast to those of the United States, threaten the very underpinnings of our democracy and cannot remain unchallenged. As such, if the FBI is not already doing so, we urge you to immediately investigate any potential illegal contributions by Russia to the Trump campaign and ensure such investigation includes contributions to any U.S. House or U.S. Senate candidates. We also request you investigate whether any NRA officials or member in the House or Senate or their staffs were aware of Russia's involvement.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress