

September 21, 2017

Dear Senator:

We are writing to strongly urge you to support and cosponsor legislation to protect the integrity of the Special Counsel investigation into Russian intervention in the 2016 presidential election.

President Trump has already interfered with this investigation and with the administration of justice by [firing](#) FBI Director James Comey, who was heading the FBI investigation into this matter. In President Trump's [own words](#), explaining his firing of Comey, "I faced great pressure because of Russia. That's taken off."

President Trump has also reportedly attempted to interfere with the Russia investigation by [asking two top intelligence officials](#) to help him push back against the FBI investigation. The officials appropriately refused to do so.

President Trump has also [reportedly](#) explored whether he can pardon himself and his children in regard to the investigation, and whether he could [undermine or fire](#) Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is leading the Justice Department's Russia investigation.

We believe it is essential to protect Special Counsel Mueller and his investigation from any interference by President Trump.

Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) have introduced legislation (S.1735) which would require approval from a federal three-judge panel before a special counsel could be dismissed.

Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Chris Coons (D-DE) have introduced legislation (S.1741) which would allow a special counsel who was fired without cause to seek review and reinstatement from a panel of three federal judges.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a hearing on these bills on September 26, 2017.

We strongly urge you to support and cosponsor these bipartisan bills and thereby to go on public record in opposition to any attempt by President Trump to fire Mr. Mueller or interfere with his investigation.

Furthermore, on August 25, 2017, President Trump pardoned former Phoenix Sheriff Joe Arpaio for his criminal contempt of court conviction. The Arpaio pardon also interfered with the administration of justice.

In issuing the Arpaio pardon, President Trump made clear he is prepared to use his pardon powers for political purposes. We strongly urge you to go on public record in opposition to any

effort by President Trump to interfere with the Special Counsel investigation by pardoning himself or any others involved in the Russia investigation.

Sincerely,

Center for Media and Democracy

Center for Popular Democracy

Common Cause

CREW

Democracy 21

Democracy Spring

Demos

End Citizens United

Every Voice

Free Speech for People

Indivisible

MoveOn.org

Norman Eisen, chief White House ethics lawyer, 2009-2011

Norman Ornstein

People For the American Way

Protect Democracy

Public Citizen

Revolving Door Project

Richard Painter, chief White House ethics lawyer, 2005-2007

Stand Up America

The Loyal Opposition

Voices for Progress

Women's Voices. Women Vote Action Fund