



Speaker Paul Ryan
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2017

Dear Speaker Ryan:

On April 6, 2017, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes announced that he was asking other Members to “take charge of the Committee’s Russia investigation” while he is being investigated by the Office of Congressional Ethics and the House Ethics Committee. However, Chairman Nunes is not following his recusal regarding the Committee’s investigation. We therefore ask you to enforce his recusal and relieve Chairman Nunes of all Committee duties while his ethics investigation is ongoing.

In the last several months, Chairman Nunes has demonstrated that he will not abide by his own self-determined terms of recusal. CNN [reported](#) that in mid-May, Chairman Nunes went to CIA headquarters to review intelligence related to Russia. In a [Fox News interview](#) the following week, he indicated he was still handling the committee's investigation about potential unmasking of the names of Trump campaign officials in intelligence documents. And on May 31, he [unilaterally issued subpoenas](#) regarding the unmasking investigation. This subpoena authority must be delegated to someone else during Chairman Nunes’ recusal. These actions in violation of his recusal demonstrate that Chairman Nunes can no longer be trusted to lead the House Intelligence Committee while he is being investigated for unauthorized disclosure of intelligence.

With the continued controversy surrounding the internal congressional inquiries examining Russia’s role in our election, and given that Chairman Nunes was a member of President-elect Trump’s executive committee transition team, we need an independent commission to provide recommendations so that no nation-state or other foreign entity can meddle in our election again. We strongly urge you to enforce Chairman Nunes’ recusal. Doing so will strengthen Americans’ confidence in the Committee’s investigation.

Sincerely,

Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

cc: All Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader