

# Highlights of H.R. 6237

## The Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019

On June 27, 2018, Chairman Nunes introduced H.R. 6237, The Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. By unanimous vote, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence reported H.R. 6237 out of Committee on June 28, 2018.

This legislation provides the Intelligence Community (IC) the necessary resources and authorities to ensure the IC remains capable of protecting and defending the United States. The bill supports critical national security programs, particularly those focused on countering threats from China as well as cyberattacks; the legislation does not make any changes to key surveillance authorities. The total funding levels authorized by the bill are slightly above the President's budget, balancing fiscal discipline and national security. This legislation:

- **Improves Retention and Recruitment of Personnel for Critical Cyber Missions** by providing increased pay for certain employees with unique cyber skills;
- **Defends Against Foreign Threats to Elections** by requiring the Director of National Intelligence to electronically publish an unclassified advisory report on foreign counterintelligence and cybersecurity threats to election campaigns for federal offices;
- **Protects Key Energy Infrastructure** by creating an Infrastructure Security Center within the Department of Energy to coordinate intelligence on significant threats;
- **Authorizes Enhanced Injury Benefits to CIA Employees** injured overseas due to hostile acts or terrorist activities;
- **Bolsters Intelligence Oversight** by requiring the IC and the Department of Defense to develop a framework to assess the numerous roles, missions and functions of the Defense Intelligence Agency;
- **Improves IC Accountability to Congress** by requiring the IC to provide reports on:
  - Investigations of leaks of classified information;
  - Security clearance processing timelines;
  - The process for reviewing information about computer vulnerabilities for retention or potential release; and
  - Russian influence campaigns directed at foreign elections
- **Requires the FBI to Provide Quarterly Counterintelligence Briefings** to the congressional intelligence committees.

In addition to supporting the IC's critical mission to protect the United States, the FY18 and FY19 Intelligence Authorization Act serves as one of the most important and effective mechanisms by which Congress can conduct rigorous and continuous oversight of the IC. Ultimately, this bill ensures that the dedicated men and women of our IC have the funding, authorities, and support they need to carry out their mission and keep us safe, while maintaining accountability and strict oversight of intelligence programs and activities.