

Highlights of H.R. 3494

The Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020

On June 26, 2019, Chairman Schiff introduced H.R. 3494, The Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020. By unanimous vote, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence reported H.R. 3494 out of Committee on June 27, 2019.

This legislation is the product of bipartisan work by the majority and minority and 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 folds in many priorities from FY18 and FY19, which:

- **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;
- **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

In addition, new language in FY20:

- **Amends the Intelligence Identities Protect Act** to protect *all* CIA covert intelligence officers' identities and affiliations regardless of whether the officer has served outside of the United States or domestically;
- **Establishes a Paid Parental Leave Program for IC Employees** providing 12 weeks of paid leave to employees following the birth or adoption of a child or the initial placement of a foster child;
- **Mandates Counterintelligence Briefings and Notifications to the Intelligence Committees** by the FBI on a quarterly basis and prompt notification when an investigation is carried out regarding a counterintelligence risk related to a federal election or campaign;
- **Establishes a Climate Security Advisory Panel** to assist analytic components of the IC with incorporating analysis of climate security into their work.

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.