

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 97

Establishing the Joint Select Committee on the Events and Activities
Surrounding China’s Handling of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2020

Mr. BARR submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on Rules

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing the Joint Select Committee on the Events and
Activities Surrounding China’s Handling of the 2019
Novel Coronavirus.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There is hereby established in the Senate and the
5 House of Representatives a joint select committee to be
6 known as the “Joint Select Committee on the Events and
7 Activities Surrounding China’s Handling of the 2019
8 Novel Coronavirus” (hereafter referred to as the “Joint
9 Select Committee”).

1 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Select Committee
4 shall be composed of 20 Members of the House of
5 Representatives and Senate, of whom—

6 (A) 10 shall be Members of the House of
7 Representatives, of whom 5 shall be appointed
8 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
9 and 5 shall be appointed by the minority leader
10 of the House of Representatives; and

11 (B) 10 shall be Senators, of whom 5 shall
12 be appointed by the majority leader of the Sen-
13 ate and 5 shall be appointed by the minority
14 leader of the Senate.

15 (2) TREATMENT OF DELEGATE AND RESIDENT
16 COMMISSIONER.—For purposes of this section, a
17 “Member” of the House of Representatives includes
18 a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Con-
19 gress.

20 (b) CO-CHAIRS.—Two of the members of the Joint
21 Select Committee shall serve as co-chairs of the Joint Se-
22 lect Committee, and shall be appointed as follows:

23 (1) One shall be a Member of the House of
24 Representatives, who shall be appointed as co-chair
25 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in

1 consultation with the minority leader of the House
2 of Representatives.

3 (2) One shall be a Senator, who shall be ap-
4 pointed as co-chair by the majority leader of the
5 Senate in consultation with the minority leader of
6 the Senate.

7 (c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership of the
8 Joint Select Committee (including a vacancy resulting be-
9 cause a member ceases to be a Member of the House of
10 Representatives or a Senator) shall not affect its powers,
11 and shall be filled not later than 14 calendar days after
12 the date on which the vacancy occurs in the same manner
13 as the original appointment was made.

14 (d) DEADLINES.—Members of the Joint Select Com-
15 mittee and the co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee
16 shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after
17 the date of the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

18 **SEC. 3. INVESTIGATION AND REPORT ON THE EVENTS SUR-**
19 **ROUNDING CHINA'S HANDLING OF THE 2019**
20 **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.**

21 (a) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.—The Joint Select
22 Committee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and
23 complete investigation of, and to issue a final report to
24 the House of Representatives and Senate regarding, the
25 following:

1 (1) The origins and causes of the 2019 novel
2 coronavirus.

3 (2) All policies, decisions, and activities by
4 China regarding the origins and causes of such
5 coronavirus.

6 (3) All policies, decisions, and activities by
7 China in response to the initial outbreak and spread
8 of such coronavirus.

9 (4) All policies, decisions, and activities by
10 China to suppress facts and information regarding
11 the spread, origins, causes, and transmission of such
12 coronavirus, including efforts to silence those mak-
13 ing early warnings, punish whistleblowers, and re-
14 strict freedom of information about such coronavi-
15 rus.

16 (5) All policies, decisions, and activities by
17 China to spread misinformation regarding the ori-
18 gins and causes of such coronavirus, including accu-
19 sations and misinformation that the coronavirus was
20 brought to the city of Wuhan by the United States
21 military.

22 (6) All policies, decisions, and activities by
23 China to sideline, deny, and suppress charitable
24 service organizations, institutions of civil society,
25 secular and faith-based non-governmental organiza-

1 tions, international humanitarian organizations, and
2 foreign governments offering to provide information,
3 expertise, resources, and assistance to China and the
4 Chinese people to combat such coronavirus.

5 (7) Accountability for policies, decisions and ac-
6 tivities related to influencing the World Health Or-
7 ganization's response to the outbreak of such
8 coronavirus, including individuals and entities re-
9 sponsible for those policies, decisions, and activities.

10 (8) All policies, decisions, and activities by
11 China to manufacture, produce, procure, possess, or
12 hoard personal protective equipment and critical
13 pharmaceutical components to manipulate or
14 weaponize the supply chain against the international
15 community, including the United States.

16 (9) Vulnerabilities in the United States domes-
17 tic and global supply chain to combat a global pan-
18 demic due to reliance on Chinese manufacturing and
19 recommendations for decreasing dependence on Chi-
20 nese manufacturing by improving and securing a do-
21 mestic supply chain for antibiotics, viral drugs, crit-
22 ical pharmaceutical components, masks, and other
23 personal protective equipment.

24 (10) Information related to lessons learned
25 from China's handling of such coronavirus.

1 (11) Any other relevant issues relating to Chi-
2 na’s actions that led to further spread of such
3 coronavirus, China’s response to such coronavirus,
4 or the investigation by the Joint Select Committee
5 into China regarding such coronavirus.

6 (12) Any recommendations to Congress and the
7 executive branch regarding actions the United States
8 government should take in response to China’s han-
9 dling of such coronavirus.

10 (b) TRANSFER OF RECORDS.—At the request of the
11 co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee, any standing
12 committee of the Senate or House of Representatives hav-
13 ing custody of records in any form relating to the matters
14 described in subsection (a) shall transfer such records to
15 the Joint Select Committee.

16 (c) INTERIM REPORTS.—In addition to the final re-
17 port issued under subsection (a), the Joint Select Com-
18 mittee may issue such interim reports as it considers nec-
19 essary.

20 (d) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The Joint Select Com-
21 mittee may include a classified annex in any report issued
22 under this section.

23 (e) DEFINITIONS.—

1 (1) CHINA.—In this section, the term “China”
2 means the Government of the People’s Republic of
3 China and any of the following:

4 (A) An official of the Chinese Communist
5 Party.

6 (B) An official of the Government of the
7 People’s Republic of China.

8 (C) An agent or instrumentality of the
9 Government of the People’s Republic of China.

10 (D) Any other person owned or controlled
11 by or acting on behalf of any person described
12 in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

13 (2) 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.—In this sub-
14 section, the term “2019 novel coronavirus” means
15 the coronavirus disease (COVID–19) and severe
16 acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS–
17 CoV–2).

18 **SEC. 4. POWERS.**

19 (a) HEARINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—For the
20 purpose of carrying out its duties, the Joint Select Com-
21 mittee may hold such hearings and undertake such other
22 activities as the Joint Select Committee determines to be
23 necessary to carry out its duties, whether the Congress
24 is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned.

1 (b) AUTHORITY TO USE SUBPOENAS.—The Joint Se-
2 lect Committee may require by subpoena the attendance
3 of such witnesses and the production of such books, pa-
4 pers, and documents, as it considers appropriate.

5 (c) ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SERVICES.—
6 The Joint Select Committee shall have access to the serv-
7 ices of the Government Accountability Office, the Congres-
8 sional Budget Office, and the Congressional Research
9 Service in the same manner and under the same terms
10 and conditions as any standing committee of the House
11 of Representatives or Senate.

12 (d) ADOPTION OF RULES.—Not later than 7 days
13 after all of its members have been appointed, the Joint
14 Select Committee shall adopt rules governing its oper-
15 ations, including rules governing the issuance of sub-
16 poenas and rules governing the use of official funds for
17 travel by members and staff, and shall submit such rules
18 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and Sec-
19 retary of the Senate for publication in the Congressional
20 Record.

21 **SEC. 5. STAFF; FUNDING.**

22 (a) STAFF.—

23 (1) USE OF EXISTING STAFF.—To the greatest
24 extent practicable, the Joint Select Committee shall

1 utilize the services of staff of employing offices of
2 the Senate and House of Representatives.

3 (2) AUTHORITY TO APPOINT STAFF.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the co-chairs
5 of the Joint Select Committee may appoint,
6 prescribe the duties and responsibilities of, and
7 fix the pay of such staff as the co-chair con-
8 siders appropriate to assist the Joint Select
9 Committee in carrying out its duties, so long as
10 the number of staff appointed by one of the co-
11 chairs does not exceed the number of staff ap-
12 pointed by the other co-chair.

13 (B) DETAIL OF CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOY-
14 EES.—Upon the joint request of the co-chairs,
15 the head of an employing office of the House of
16 Representatives or Senate (including a joint
17 committee of the Congress) is authorized to de-
18 tail, without reimbursement, any of the staff of
19 the office to the Joint Select Committee to as-
20 sist the Joint Select Committee in carrying out
21 its duties.

22 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Section
23 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946
24 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)) shall apply with respect to the
25 Joint Select Committee in the same manner as such

1 section applies with respect to a standing committee
2 of the Senate, except that any consultant whose
3 services are procured by the Joint Select Committee
4 shall be selected jointly by the co-chairs of the Joint
5 Select Committee.

6 (b) FUNDING.—

7 (1) VOUCHERS.—Payments for expenses of the
8 Joint Select Committee shall be made using vouch-
9 ers authorized by the Joint Select Committee, signed
10 by co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee, and ap-
11 proved in a manner directed by the Committee on
12 Rules and Administration of the Senate and the
13 Committee on House Administration of the House of
14 Representatives.

15 (2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—There are authorized
16 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary
17 for the operation of the Joint Select Committee, of
18 which—

19 (A) 50 percent shall be derived from the
20 applicable accounts of the House of Representa-
21 tives; and

22 (B) 50 percent shall be derived from the
23 contingent fund of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

2 (a) **TERMINATION DATE.**—The Joint Select Com-
3 mittee shall terminate 30 days after filing the final report
4 required under section 3.

5 (b) **TRANSFER OF RECORDS.**—Upon termination of
6 the Joint Select Committee, the records of the Joint Select
7 Committee shall be transferred to—

8 (1) such committee or committees of the House
9 of Representatives as may be designated by the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

11 (2) such committee or committees of the Senate
12 as may be designated by the President pro tempore
13 of the Senate.

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