

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 48

Establishing a select committee to review national security laws, policies,
and practices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2011

Ms. LEE of California (for herself and Mr. CONYERS) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Establishing a select committee to review national security
laws, policies, and practices.

Whereas a select committee would be able to take a broad
look at Executive Branch decisions and the role of many
departments and agencies, including contractors, in law
enforcement, national security, and intelligence activities
including surveillance, interrogation and detention prac-
tices, without having any jurisdictional limitations; and

Whereas a select committee will bring members of the rel-
evant standing committees together with a dedicated staff
to provide intensive investigation, oversight, and rec-
ommendation that cannot be accomplished by the com-
mittees of jurisdiction working piecemeal: Now, therefore,
be it

1 *Resolved*, That there is hereby established a select
2 committee to review national security laws, policies, and
3 practices (hereinafter referred to as the “select com-
4 mittee”).

5 **SEC. 2. JURISDICTION; FUNCTIONS.**

6 (a) LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION.—The select com-
7 mittee shall not have legislative jurisdiction and shall have
8 no authority to take legislative action on any bill or resolu-
9 tion.

10 (b) INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION.—The select com-
11 mittee shall study and make recommendations about the
12 effectiveness of past and present United States law en-
13 forcement, national security and intelligence activities and
14 the extent, if any, to which unlawful, improper or unau-
15 thorized activities were engaged in by or on behalf of any
16 Federal, State, or local government official, including—

17 (1) the effectiveness and efficiency of past and
18 present law enforcement, and national security and
19 intelligence policies, programs, and activities;

20 (2) the development and implementation of poli-
21 cies or practices regarding the capture, detention,
22 transfer, extra-judicial rendition, and treatment of
23 individuals by United States Armed Forces, law en-
24 forcement and the United States intelligence com-
25 munity, including policies intended to conceal the

1 fact that a person has been detained by, or at the
2 direct request of, the United States;

3 (3) the development and implementation of poli-
4 cies or practices regarding domestic surveillance ac-
5 tivities, or the surveillance of United States persons
6 abroad;

7 (4) the adequacy of past and present congres-
8 sional oversight mechanisms and impediments to ac-
9 cess to information necessary to conduct proper
10 oversight; and

11 (5) such other related matters as the committee
12 deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

13 **SEC. 3. COMPOSITION.**

14 The select committee shall be composed of 7 members
15 appointed by the Speaker, of whom 3 shall be appointed
16 upon the recommendation of the minority leader. The
17 Speaker shall designate one member of the select com-
18 mittee as its chairman. A vacancy in the membership of
19 the select committee shall be filled in the same manner
20 as the original appointment.

21 **SEC. 4. PROCEDURE.**

22 (a) Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of
23 Representatives shall apply to the select committee where
24 not inconsistent with this resolution.

25 (b) The select committee is authorized to—

1 (1) require by subpoena or otherwise the at-
2 tendance and testimony of any person (including at
3 a taking of a deposition by counsel or consultant of
4 the committee), and the production of such things;
5 and

6 (2) adopt a rule regulating the taking of deposi-
7 tions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the
8 committee, including pursuant to subpoena.

9 **SEC. 5. REPORTING.**

10 The select committee shall report to the House from
11 time to time the results of its investigations and studies
12 as it may deem advisable. At least one public report shall
13 be filed with the House not later than one year following
14 the date of enactment of this Act, and shall include legisla-
15 tive recommendations based on its findings.

16 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

17 (a) **EXPENSES.**—There shall be paid out of the appli-
18 cable accounts of the House such sums as may be nec-
19 essary for the expenses of the select committee. Such pay-
20 ments shall be made on vouchers signed by the chairman
21 of the select committee and approved in the manner di-
22 rected by the Committee on House Administration.
23 Amounts made available under this subsection shall be ex-
24 pended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the
25 Committee on House Administration.

1 (b) STAFF AND TRAVEL.—In carrying out its func-
2 tions under this resolution, the select committee may—

3 (1) appoint, either on a permanent basis or as
4 experts or consultants, any staff that the select com-
5 mittee considers necessary;

6 (2) prescribe the duties and responsibilities of
7 the staff;

8 (3) fix the compensation of the staff at per
9 annum gross rates that do not exceed the highest
10 rate of basic pay, as in effect from time to time, of
11 level V of the Executive Schedule in section 5316 of
12 title 5, United States Code;

13 (4) terminate the employment of any such staff
14 as the select committee considers appropriate;

15 (5) reimburse members of the select committee
16 and its staff for travel, subsistence, and other nec-
17 essary expenses incurred by them in the performance
18 of their functions for the select committee, other
19 than expenses in connection with any meeting of the
20 select committee held in the District of Columbia;
21 and

22 (6) obtain detailees or staff from the executive
23 or legislative branch of the Government, who shall
24 be deemed staff of the select committee.

1 **SEC. 7. DISSOLUTION AND WINDUP OF AFFAIRS.**

2 The select committee shall cease to exist on December
3 31, 2012.

4 **SEC. 8. DISPOSITION OF RECORDS.**

5 Upon dissolution of the select committee, its records
6 shall become records of such standing committee or com-
7 mittees as the Speaker may designate.

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