

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2020

The Honorable John Ratcliffe
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Ratcliffe,

I am writing to express my strong concern regarding outside reports that Russian state-connected actors have amplified dangerous QAnon conspiracy theories. This is an issue of increasing importance as a number of public officials, including the President, have refused to denounce the movement while even praising its adherents.¹

In the past few years, the QAnon conspiracy theory group has gained a foothold in the radical right-wing movement in the United States. Individuals participating in QAnon have widely advanced false narratives such as variations on age-old anti-Semitic conspiracies.² Beyond sharing false information, the movement's followers have incited and participated in violence across the country.³⁴ As a result of this real-world violence, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook have imposed restrictions on QAnon-related content.⁵

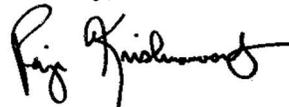
As you know, Russia interfered in the 2016 election and is doing so again.⁶⁷⁸ It is therefore alarming that evidence is rapidly mounting that Kremlin-linked actors are propagating QAnon content on a widespread basis online.⁹¹⁰

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and in building on last week's unclassified hearing with third-party experts on these threats, I request the following information:

1. Any Intelligence Community analysis that addresses any aspect of the public reporting with respect to Russia potentially using QAnon as an element of its disinformation or foreign influence efforts.
2. A description of any efforts the Intelligence Community is taking or has taken to assess whether Kremlin-linked actors are propagating, amplifying, or otherwise engaging with QAnon content.

Given the importance of public information and education, I request an unclassified response to the above questions no later than October 30, 2020.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

¹ [Rather than condemn the QAnon conspiracy theory, Trump elevates its dangerous central assertion.](#) *Washington Post*, October 15, 2020.

² [What is QAnon? A guide to the conspiracy theory taking hold among Trump supporters.](#) *NBC News*, August 3, 2018.

³ [Russian-backed organizations amplifying QAnon conspiracy theories, researchers say.](#) *Reuters*, August 24, 2020.

⁴ [Man pleads guilty to terrorism charge after blocking Hoover Dam bridge with armored truck.](#) *ABC News*, February 13, 2020.

⁵ [YouTube Cracks Down on QAnon Conspiracy Theory, Citing Offline Violence.](#) *New York Times*, October 15, 2020.

⁶ [Statement by NCSC Director William Evanina: Election Threat Update for the American Public.](#) *Office of the Director of National Intelligence*, August 7, 2020.

⁷ [Intelligence Director Says Agencies Agree on Russian Meddling.](#) *NBC News*, July 17, 2017.

⁸ [Senate panel backs assessment that Russia interfered in 2016.](#) *Associated Press*, April 21, 2020

⁹ [Russian-backed organizations amplifying QAnon conspiracy theories, researchers say.](#) *Reuters*, August 24, 2020.

¹⁰ [Interpreting Social Q's: Implications of the Evolution of QAnon.](#) *Graphika*, August 2020