Congressional Briefing on Disinformation and Media Literacy Education

Sponsored by Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Foreign adversaries are using information warfare to influence democracies across the world. Combating the spread of disinformation is one of the most difficult challenges facing our country. The Mueller Report detailed the extensive effects Russia had on the 2016 election. Between 2013 and 2018, Russia's Internet Research Agency (IRA) operated influence campaigns on social media that reached 126 million users in the United States. Experts agree that one of the best ways to combat foreign influence campaigns is to educate people on how to identify disinformation through media literacy.

In July, Senator Klobuchar introduced the *Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Act*, legislation that would establish a grant program at the Department of Education to help develop digital citizenship and media literacy education across grades K-12. Ranking Member Klobuchar and Ranking Member Reed also recently introduced the *Combatting Foreign Influence Act*, legislation that would establish a Malign Foreign Influence Response Center at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to combat interference operations conducted by foreign adversaries against the United States.

This will be a briefing on efforts to monitor and combat disinformation ahead of the 2020 elections, an overview of media literacy education initiatives, and the importance of media literacy in protecting our democracy.

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